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Updates for December 9th

23 Nov - RIP Jamil Al-Amin

The spiritual leader, political prisoner, and revolutionary Imam Jamil Abdallah Al-Amin passed away in prison this Sunday, November 23, 2025.

MORE:

Known by his alias “H. Rap Brown,” Al-Amin served as the fifth chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and as the Minister of Justice in the Black Panther Party. Al-Amin was a fierce supporter for Black Power and organized rebellion against white supremacy and state violence across the US.

In 1966, Al-Amin organized in Greene County, Alabama to secure Black voter registration and political power following the passage of the National Voting Rights Act. Two years later, Al-Amin helped represent and co-organize the April 1968 Columbia protests against university expansion into Harlem park land in order to build a gymnasium.

Because of his galvanizing force as an organizer and success at radicalizing youth, Al-Amin became a target of the FBI’s COINTELPRO program, which systematically surveilled and attempted to bring down revolutionaries in the late 1960s across the US. It was in prison that Brown changed his name to Al-Amin and converted to Islam. From his cell, Al-Amin wrote of the need for organized revolutionary change while he was on hunger strike.

Despite Al-Amin not ultimately being liberated in this lifetime, his political thought and revolutionary legacy will endure as he passes onto the next.

23 Nov - International Call For New Year’s Eve Noise Demonstrations

This is a call for a raucous night of strong solidarity with those imprisoned by the state on one of the noisiest nights of the year.

MORE:

On New Year’s Eve gather your crew, collective, community, organization, or just yourself and come together to raise a racket and remind those on the inside that they are not alone.

Internationally, noise demonstrations outside of prisons are a way to remember those who are held captive by the state and a way to show solidarity with imprisoned comrades and loved ones. We come together to break the loneliness and isolation.

We know that prison is beyond reform and must be completely abolished. It is a mechanism of repression used by the state to maintain a social order rooted in white supremacy, patriarchy, and heteronormativity. To come together outside of the sites of repression is to also stand in defiance of what they represent.

The logic of the state and capital—of punishment and imprisonment, must be replaced by a rejection of oppression and exploitation. This call is one step in that direction.

Wherever you are, meet on New Year’s Eve at the prisons, jails, and detention centers, be loud in solidarity with those imprisoned and to push forward the idea of a world free from domination.

We want a world without walls and borders.

We will fight together until everyone is free!

24 Nov - Restrained, Beaten, Asphyxiated: New York Prison Guards' Brutality Grows

As frustrations among corrections officers mount, abusive treatment of inmates is rising and becoming more vicious, records and interviews show.

MORE:

by Jan Ransom and Bianca Pallaro (*New York Times*)

Even in a system known for its brutality, what New York State prison guards did to Robert L. Brooks and Messiah Nantwi stood out.

Both men were handcuffed before guards beat them viciously, leaving them unable to defend themselves or even shield their faces as the blows rained down. Both died soon after being attacked, victims not of justified force but, essentially, of torture.

The killings caused a brief reckoning this year within the walled-off world of New York's prisons, resulting in criminal charges against 20 of the officers involved and sending officials scrambling to try to portray the episodes as unacceptable aberrations.

But a *New York Times* investigation has found that state prison guards have been credibly accused of engaging in such behavior — putting inmates in restraints and then assaulting them — far more often than was previously known.

Drawing on thousands of pages of court records, disciplinary data and interviews with dozens of current and former inmates, *The Times* identified more than 120 instances in the past decade in which guards were described as having punched, kicked or stomped on prisoners, smashed their fingers in cell doors, held their legs apart and struck their genitals with batons, and even waterboarded them — all while the prisoners were handcuffed or otherwise restrained.

Across the prison system, the rate at which staff members have used force against inmates has been climbing steadily for the past decade.

But interviews with watchdog officials, prisoners' advocates and prisoners themselves suggest that instances of the most egregious abuse have increased significantly in just the past three years.

The officials, advocates and prisoners have linked the increase partly to seething anger among guards over recently enacted limits on their ability to use solitary confinement. And they said the uptick had been accompanied by a general increase in rule breaking by officers, who maintain that the solitary confinement restrictions have made their jobs less safe.

Just before 10 guards were charged in the killing of Mr. Brooks in February, thousands of officers walked off the job in illegal strikes across the state, plunging the prisons into chaos and prompting Gov. Kathy Hochul to deploy the National Guard to restore order. When officers began returning to work weeks later, many were still fuming, inmates said.

"The abuse has been worse since the strike," said Duane Brown, 44, who is serving 30 years to life for murder and said guards at Green Haven Correctional Facility had beaten him to unconsciousness in September.

A spokesman for the union that represents the guards, the New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association, denied that officers had tortured inmates. He acknowledged that they were using force more often but said they were doing so because of working conditions that left them no choice.

“The reality is that when you are dealing with inmates who attack staff and other inmates and refuse orders to cease, force is necessary to contain the situation and minimize the number of injuries that occur at the hands of inmates,” the spokesman, James Miller, said.

But a vast majority of cases identified by *The Times* did not fit that description.

One occurred in June 2024 at Clinton Correctional Facility near the Canadian border, where guards handcuffed Ernest Moore, a 25-year-old inmate who had filed lawsuits against prison staff members, punched and kicked him and then dragged him to a medical room, where they held a plastic bag over his head until he lost consciousness.

Another beating unfolded in September 2023 at Sing Sing Correctional Facility north of New York City, where Dane Stuart, 34, said guards restrained his hands before putting him in a chokehold and stomping on his arms and legs.

A third happened in April 2022 at Collins Correctional Facility near Buffalo, where Byron Santos, 28, said guards handcuffed him, put him in a headlock, threw him to the floor, kicked him and knelt on the back of his neck.

In a prison system where more than 75 percent of employees are white and 73 percent of prisoners are Black or Hispanic, many of the incidents had racist overtones, inmates said, with white guards using racial epithets and other demeaning language during attacks. One inmate said guards restrained him and then called him a slur as they punched and kicked him and tore dreadlocks from his scalp at Clinton in 2021.

Most guards who are accused of such abuse are never charged with crimes, or even disciplined. There were about 9,500 misconduct investigations brought against officers from 2000 to mid-October 2020 and closed by mid-2021, an average of more than 460 a year or about 38 a month, records show. Of those, about 10 percent involved accusations of inmate abuse. A vast majority of guards accused in such cases were never terminated.

In a statement, a spokesman for the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision said that the safety of prison staff members and inmates was the agency’s “top priority.”

“The department has zero tolerance for violence within our facilities,” the spokesman, Thomas Mailey, said. “Anyone engaged in misconduct will be disciplined, and, if warranted, incidents will be referred for outside prosecution.”

At a public hearing in Albany in May, Daniel F. Martuscello III, the state’s corrections commissioner, acknowledged problems and promised improvements.

“Individuals are sent to prison as punishment, not for punishment, and there is an expectation of safety and opportunities for rehabilitation,” he said. “The last few months have challenged the foundation of this belief.”

Any reform efforts face a steep uphill climb, current and former inmates said.

At the Marcy Correctional Facility, where Mr. Brooks was killed, vicious beatings occurred so often that Sean Chung, a 29-year-old former inmate who worked there as a janitor, said in an interview that he had developed a routine to clean up after them.

He would follow orders to face the wall and listen as the first blows landed.

“I am hearing loud thuds,” said Mr. Chung, who was released on parole in 2024 after serving eight years for weapons possession and conspiracy. Then came shouts from the guards: “‘Stop resisting, stop fighting, put your hands behind your back!’”

“You hear the hard, gut-wrenching punches,” he said, “the screams, the ‘I’m sorrys,’ ‘I can’t breathe,’ ‘You’re going to kill me.’ You hear ‘Mom,’ and it gets quiet and you just keep hearing the thuds.”

Afterward, he said, his eyes would water and his throat would burn as he scrubbed the oily residue of pepper spray from the walls. He would use a mop to soak up blood from cracks in the floor and apply disinfectants to areas where urine and feces were sometimes left behind. He had a red bin marked “hazardous waste” for collecting broken teeth, torn-out hair and bits of clothing.

“It used to be traumatizing, but then it became normal. This is every day,” Mr. Chung said, before adding, “Everybody knows about this.”

‘The Slaughterhouse’

Few places in the prison system have a worse reputation for violence against inmates than the Clinton penitentiary.

The setting for brutal attacks on inmates in the 1980s and ’90s, the scene of a fatal beating in 2010 and the epicenter of brazen assaults after two inmates escaped in 2015, the prison, in Dannemora, has more recently become known for a unique form of punishment, *The Times* found.

In interviews and lawsuits, nine inmates have described being handcuffed, beaten and then nearly suffocated by guards who held plastic bags over their heads.

In the most recent such incident, in August 2024, an inmate named Deveron Raymond was walking back to his housing area when guards ordered him to face the wall. One pulled a plastic bag over his head and another punched him in the stomach, he said in an interview. A third wrapped his hands around Mr. Raymond’s neck, and he lost consciousness, he said.

When he came to, he was in the infirmary, in a room known among prisoners as “the slaughterhouse,” and a guard was hitting him in the face with a baton, he said. Others punched and kicked him as he lay handcuffed on the floor and then pushed his face against a hot radiator. Then they pulled another bag over his head, he said.

“I knew it was over,” said Mr. Raymond, 41, his voice cracking. “I was like, ‘Wow, this is it. This is how I have to go out.’”

Mr. Raymond, who had been serving 13 years to life on a burglary conviction, emerged with a dislocated thumb, a missing tooth and permanent injuries to his jaw and face, according to a lawsuit he filed, which is pending.

Two other inmates, brothers Paris and Curtis Perkins, said they had been singled out for similar treatment in February 2023.

Paris Perkins, who is 47 and serving a life sentence for murder and other charges, said he was waiting in line for the mess hall when guards slammed his head into a wall, threw him to the floor, handcuffed him and took him to the infirmary, where they punched, kicked and stomped on him, breaking five of his teeth. (The Marshall Project, a criminal justice news outlet, has previously reported on accusations of abuse being carried out in prison infirmaries, where there are no cameras.)

Mr. Perkins said a sergeant, Matthew Liberty, had pulled a bag over his head before he lost consciousness.

Sergeant Liberty is accused of similar brutality in two other pending lawsuits. A corrections department spokesman said the agency sought to fire him in 2013 but that the termination was overturned in arbitration. The sergeant did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Curtis Perkins, who tried to come to his brother's aid, said he was also restrained and taken to another room, where guards pulled braids from his scalp, bent his fingers at odd angles, shoved fingers in and out of his anus and called him a racial slur, he said. They held a plastic bag over his head until he lost consciousness and then did it again when he came to, said Mr. Perkins, who is 37 and serving up to 27 years for attempted murder and other offenses.

Another inmate, Tevin Jackson, said he was handcuffed when guards punched him in the face and back, kned him in the chest and lashed at his feet with batons. A sergeant then held a plastic bag over his head until he passed out on an exam room table in February 2022, said Mr. Jackson, who is 34 and serving 20 years for manslaughter and attempted robbery.

The corrections department spokesman, Mr. Mailey, said in a statement that all of the accusations involving Clinton described in this article had been investigated and were determined to be unfounded or unsubstantiated. He added that the agency had separately investigated past claims about guards placing plastic bags over inmates' heads and had found no evidence to support them.

But Ellie Silverman, a lawyer who represented several inmates who said they had been nearly suffocated at Clinton, said the practice occurred regularly and involved not just a few officers.

"We are no longer even talking about bad apples anymore — we are talking about a bad culture," Ms. Silverman said. "It has become an accepted culture at Clinton, which is terrifying."

She said the case of Tyrone McCalla exemplified that culture.

Mr. McCalla was serving up to 10 years for burglary and other charges when he was pulled out of the line for the recreation yard in March 2022 and ordered to put his hands on a wall. When Mr. McCalla, who had a history of filing grievances against guards, did not immediately comply, officers threw him to the floor and piled on top of him, according to Mr. McCalla and video of the incident.

They pulled him into the infirmary, where they continued beating him before pulling a plastic bag over his head, he said. One guard kicked him in the genitals and said he was rendering him incapable of fathering Black children, whom he described with a racial slur, Mr. McCalla said. Others punched him in the face, stripped him to his underwear and pulled another bag over his head, he said. He recalled seeing blood and feeling his nose breaking.

Afterward, Mr. McCalla, who was set to be released that July, was sent to solitary confinement and falsely accused of attacking guards, he said. He was charged with assault, convicted and sentenced to another seven years in prison.

"This is their currency," Mr. McCalla, 38, said. "Jumping on inmates and charging them. They try to paint a picture like we are attacking them until stuff like what happened at Marcy," he added, referring to the killing of Mr. Brooks.

"Who is going to be next?"

Using Force

No organization regularly tracks instances of brutality inside state prisons.

But after the beating deaths of Mr. Brooks and Mr. Nantwi, Times reporters set out to learn how often prisoners had received similar treatment.

Scouring corrections department records, legal filings, news articles and other sources, they identified 127 cases in which inmates said they had been handcuffed or otherwise restrained before being physically abused. All of the cases occurred in the past decade.

Some of the accounts were drawn from lawsuits that were ultimately dismissed for procedural or other reasons. Others came from claims that led to legal settlements. A few were relayed by the inmates themselves in on-the-record interviews. A small number were described in charging documents or state disciplinary records.

Taken together, they paint a damning picture of brutality inside New York's state prisons.

Department policies bar guards from using unnecessary force, and guards who do so can potentially face criminal charges.

Yet the *Times* review found that guards have been regularly accused of such behavior for years.

And for years, state officials with the power to crack down on such conduct have largely tolerated it. They have treated some cases as isolated incidents, labeled others as justified and written off still others as lies told by untrustworthy prisoners.

Even when the same guards have been accused of abusive behavior repeatedly over several years, officials have not fired them.

That was the case with Troy Mitchell.

In 2002, Mr. Mitchell was an officer at Auburn Correctional Facility when he targeted one inmate with a vicious beating, breaking both of his hands, his ankle, his nose and a tooth, the inmate said in a lawsuit. That case was settled in 2008 for \$55,000.

In 2008, Mr. Mitchell, who had been promoted to lieutenant, was accused of assaulting another man while he was handcuffed, leading to another settlement.

In 2016, Mr. Mitchell and other guards shackled an inmate named Matthew Raymond at his hands and feet and brought him into a room in the prison's medical unit, according to another lawsuit.

Mr. Mitchell held Mr. Raymond down by his hair, pulled his shirt over his face and slowly poured a large bucket of water over his nose and mouth, simulating drowning, Mr. Raymond said in an interview and in a lawsuit. Then Mr. Mitchell pummeled Mr. Raymond's face, neck and chest, twisted his genitals and beat them with a baton while another officer held Mr. Raymond's legs apart, he said.

"It was terrifying," said Mr. Raymond, who was released in 2020. "I feel helpless for the people who are in the position that I was in."

Afterward, Mr. Raymond was locked in solitary confinement and denied medical care for months, the lawsuit said. He sustained permanent bladder damage, and, nearly a decade later, must still urinate through a catheter. Earlier this year, the state settled his lawsuit for \$1.2 million.

Mr. Mitchell would be accused of at least two more beatings before he was allowed to retire in 2018, amid disciplinary charges that he had failed to turn in his pistol and had communicated in an unprofessional and profane manner. He did not respond to requests for comment.

The corrections department spokesman, Mr. Mailey, said the agency had investigated Mr. Raymond's claims and found them to be unsubstantiated. Later, he said, a nurse came forward and said that Mr. Mitchell, who had retired by that time, had assaulted Mr. Raymond. Mr. Mailey said the department had referred the case to the U.S. attorney's office, which had declined to prosecute.

A Times analysis of disciplinary records obtained by the New York Civil Liberties Union shows that even when guards have been formally accused of extreme abuse, they have rarely faced serious consequences.

On at least 377 occasions from January 2000 to mid-October 2020, officers were accused of punching inmates in the face while they were shackled to a chair, forcing them to perform oral sex, using a wooden paddle to strike them on their bare buttocks, handcuffing them and kicking them in the ribs, stomping on their heads, striking them with batons while ignoring orders to stop, and other offenses.

Just 28 lost their jobs.

Methodology

Reporters analyzed disciplinary records obtained by the New York Civil Liberties Union through a lawsuit and provided to The New York Times. The records cover closed cases initiated between January 2000 and mid-October 2020. Only misconduct investigations involving captains, sergeants, correctional officers and lieutenants were considered. The records associate each disciplinary case with one or more types of misconduct; The Times focused on those classified as "inmate abuse." The records also include a field indicating the penalty imposed. The Times identified guards who lost their jobs based on cases where the penalty was termination or dismissal.

To identify the most extreme cases of inmate abuse described in disciplinary records, The Times used an artificial intelligence model to examine the records' brief incident descriptions, looking for cases in which officers were accused of using "excessive," "unnecessary," "unjustified," or "inappropriate" physical force on inmates. Journalists then reviewed and verified the results.

The Times's analysis of use-of-force frequency is based on "unusual incident" data published by the Correctional Association of New York, a prison oversight organization. The data is based on reports submitted by New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision staff members. Reports were treated as including staff members' use of force if they met at least one of the following criteria: They contained at least one incident classified as involving such force, had a report-level use-of-force flag or indicated a staff member's use of a weapon. (Reports that included multiple incidents classified as use-of-force were counted only once.)

To calculate the annual use-of-force rate per 1,000 inmates, The Times divided the counts above by the average monthly number of incarcerated individuals in custody each year, based on data also obtained by the oversight organization through public records requests. A similar methodology was used to calculate the use-of-force rate per 100 uniformed staff members by facility in 2024.

27 Nov - 100 Mile March For Mumia Abu-Jamal

Starting at 9am, Friday, November 28, activists, community leaders, and families of the incarcerated gathered next to Uncle Bobbie's Bookstore at The Market Square Monument, 5447 Germantown Ave, Germantown, Philadelphia to embark on a March for Mumia, a 12-day mobilization demanding freedom for journalist and political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, and calling attention to the systemic crisis of elder abuse, medical neglect, and politically targeted incarceration.

MORE:

For 11 more days, marchers will walk for 3-6 hours daily for 7-12 miles until they reach SCI Mahanoy in Frackville, PA on Dec. 9. There participants will present a list of demands to the facility's Superintendent, Bernadette Mason.

Mumia, 71 years old, suffers from chronic health conditions—including heart disease and vision loss—worsened by what his family and supporters describe as medical neglect by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (formerly known as Black Power activist H. Rap Brown),

following complaints of elder abuse and medical neglect by his family and supporters, died Nov. 23 after 23 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. Al-Amin's and Mumia's conditions reflect the broader crisis of this country's aging prison population amid decades of medical neglect, as our brothers and sisters behind bars are routinely denied adequate care and proper food.

The March seeks to highlight these abuses and demands an end to the systemic neglect of elderly and sick incarcerated people across the U.S. and the immediate release of Mumia Abu-Jamal and other political prisoners.

Born in 1954, Mumia Abu-Jamal grew up in Philadelphia amid racial segregation and police violence. As a teenager, he joined the Black Panther Party and later became an award-winning journalist known for exposing systemic racism and police abuse. His reporting challenged Philadelphia's power structure, earning him recognition—and hostility—from local authorities.

In 1981, Mumia was arrested and convicted in the shooting death of a Philadelphia police officer. His 1982 conviction was tainted by racial bias, coerced testimony, and judicial misconduct. Although a federal court overturned his death sentence in 2001, he remains imprisoned for life without parole. Despite decades of appeals and evidence of prosecutorial misconduct and constitutional violations, the state has blocked every attempt to grant him a fair trial.

Prominent voices including Amnesty International, the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Maya Angelou, Nelson Mandela, Toni Morrison, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), the International Transport Workers Union and the Congressional Black Caucus, among others, have long called for justice for Mumia and for his release.

28 Nov - Poet's Federal Trial Set For February, Community Continues Support

The federal trial for poet and activist Isabel "Isa" Lopez has been reset for 9 a.m. on Feb. 2, 2026, after several delays and cancellations.

MORE:

by Niko Georgiades (*Unicorn Riot*)

Lopez is facing four felonies from protesting federal agents carrying out an operation in Minneapolis in June. A jury made up of Minnesotans from around the state will hear Lopez's case before Judge John R. Tunheim in courtroom 14E at the Minneapolis federal courthouse. On Tuesday, a magistrate judge recommended the denial of all of Lopez's motions to dismiss charges.

Lopez was charged with two counts of assault on a federal officer and one count of obstruction during a civil disorder after she responded along with 200 other community members to a contentious federal raid on Lake St. on June 3, 2025. A few days after the raid, federal agents arrested Lopez following an interview with press in downtown St. Paul and charged her with another assault for allegedly hitting a federal agent during the arrest.

Since the arrest and charges, Lopez has been the recipient of waves of community support. A total of 1,700 people have signed a change.org petition calling for Isa's charges to be dropped as of Nov. 28.

Many events and protests have been held with community demands that the U.S. Attorney drop the charges. One of those events occurred during the morning of September 29, 2025, in front of the federal courthouse. A pretrial hearing that was scheduled for that morning was canceled by the court after neither party submitted testimonial evidence.

Isa spoke during the rally — not about her case — but about the “limiting of life” within colonialism. “They take out a lot of people that look like me and they put them in cages,” Lopez said, “whether it be

prisons, whether it be detention centers. It is the limiting of life. It's the fact that we do not have the permission to grow. And that is a violation to life itself."

Lopez is represented by defense attorney Jordan Kushner, who's submitted two motions to dismiss charges brought against Lopez — one for failure to state an offense and another motion to dismiss as unconstitutional — saying the charges violated Lopez's freedom of speech.

Responding to Kushner's motions to dismiss the charges, an 11-page report and recommendation signed by U.S. Magistrate Judge Dulce J. Foster was filed on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2025. The report recommends denying both of Lopez's motions to dismiss.

1 Dec - Letter From Some of the 'Chaos Star' Defendants

Indonesia: This letter is by a section of the Chaos Star defendants in the West Java Paramilitary police compound. The reference in the signature to FAAF, is the Free Association of Autonomous Fires.

MORE:

by Palang Hitam/ABC (*Dark Nights*)

Greetings to friends and to enemies alike,

Even now, the structures of power—ancient, rigid, and towering—continue to stand. Yet last August, people cracked the illusion of their invincibility. They showed that nothing is beyond transformation when our desires converge into a force capable of opening pathways toward the worlds we long to create.

We are individualists because we refuse the ideological fantasies of withered anarchists who preach like missionaries of a fading religion.

We are individualists because we believe in an anarchy of imagination—creative, diverse, unbound.

We are individualists who hold that nihilism is a concrete passage toward self-actualization, beyond the messianic dead-ends of dividing reality into "good" and "evil," knowing full well the complexity of life cannot be squeezed into the decaying relics of Judeo-Christian doctrine—relics that should be buried like the myths of prophets and their fading gods.

We are individualists because we believe in the absolute autonomy of each person to shape the life they desire—yet we also believe in cooperation, in the equality of individuals who pursue their desires together. Our anti-social anarchy is an active refusal of the old values reproduced endlessly in everyday life.

At the same time, we are bewildered, amused, and entertained by the foolish accusations hurled by some social anarchists who label us "purists" as if our rejection of organization were born of loyalty to some classical anarchist canon—an ideology drenched in Eurocentrism, streaked with the colonial residue of Western civilization, and infused with the Enlightenment's humanism, the very root of authoritarian democracy. We reject all ideologies. The rebels of Paris Commune in 1871, the revolutionaries of Spain in 1936, the dreamers of Paris in 1968, and those of August 2025—all remind us of brief lives that were truly worth living beyond any ideologies.

From behind these walls and bars, we send a sharp wind toward every wild soul, reminding them that they are not alone against the repulsive realities engineered by the powerful.

The compass of anarchy draws us together at the threshold between free will and the will to power. We belong to no formal anarchist organization (spare us).

We are not part of impotent collectives like the PRISONERS' UNION, (Serikat Tahanan) nor of any group that claims us for their own—much less the so-called anarchist movement with its church-like rigidity and archaic morality.

Toward the fusion of social and individual anarchy, and toward the negation of every radical movement that mirrors—or even surpasses—the mental and physical prisons of the state and capitalism!

This is an open letter to all anarchist of praxis. Fuck all idols, burn all radical bibles, and attack the enemy on all fronts.

– FAAF and Individualist prisoners

3 Dec - Prairieland Case Update

As this case continues on, we have updates...

MORE:

Nine defendants in the Prairieland ICE Detention Center protest case pleaded 'not guilty' today to federal charges, including riot, discharging a firearm, attempted murder, providing material support to terrorists, and conspiracy to conceal documents. A federal superseding indictment was filed in the Prairieland case on November 13 by Acting US Attorney Nancy Larson, just four days before Trump appointed former federal prosecutor Ryan Raybould as US Attorney on November 17.

Savanna Batten, Zachary Evetts, Autumn Hill, Meagan Morris, Maricela Rueda, Daniel "Des" Rolando Sanchez Estrada, Benjamin Song, Elizabeth Soto, and Ines Soto pleaded 'not guilty' at their federal arraignments on December 3. All nine defendants are fighting their charges by taking their cases to trial. Federal jury trials are scheduled to begin January 5, 2026, in the US District Court for the Northern District of Texas in Fort Worth.

"The superseding indictment makes unproven claims, mischaracterizes facts, and takes quotes out of context," said Stephanie Shiver, wife of defendant Meagan Morris. "Claims of adherence to a political ideology like anti-fascism, whether true or not, are not grounds to charge someone with terrorism and do not belong in an indictment," continued Shiver. "By associating the Prairieland case with Antifa, the government is using terrorism charges to spread fear and intimidation, and to carry out sweeping political repression."

Prejudicial statements related to these cases have been made repeatedly by officials at the highest levels of government, undermining the defendants' ability to get a fair trial. The Trump administration has publicly claimed that the Prairieland case is the first legal case against Antifa, while Trump declared Antifa a domestic terrorist organization. On September 25, the White House released the National Security Presidential Memorandum-7 (NSPM-7), which ordered all federal law enforcement agencies to prioritize combating Antifa as a domestic terrorism threat. FBI director Kash Patel has called the Prairieland defendants "Antifa-aligned anarchist violent extremists," sharing *Fox News* coverage of the case on X.

Yet, supporters are refuting the claims of terrorism and planned violence. "As the Prairieland case progresses, it looks more and more like a protest case involving people expressing solidarity with detained immigrants," said Amber Lowrey, sister of defendant Savanna Batten. "The federal government is trying to reframe protest activity as terrorism, and we're seeing this attempted across the country, from Chicago to Portland, and now here in Dallas-Fort Worth."

The recent arraignments and not guilty pleas come as the District Court of Johnson County is set to hear a motion to quash the State indictment against Dario Sanchez on January 8. Fifteen people were indicted on State charges in the Prairieland case and nine people were indicted on federal charges, forcing many

defendants to concurrently fight their State and federal charges. Seven defendants pleaded guilty to federal charges last month and are awaiting sentencing in March.

Exorbitant bonds of up to \$15 million are being used in the State cases to imprison people who do not represent a flight risk or a danger to the community. Supporters believe that pretrial detention is being used by the government to hinder the defense and to maintain the dominant narrative in the media.

The Prairieland case stems from a noise demonstration in solidarity with detainees at the Prairieland ICE Detention Center in Alvarado, Texas, on July 4, 2025. Toward the end of the demonstration, an officer with the Alvarado Police Department arrived and allegedly quickly became involved in an exchange of gunfire with someone else on the scene. The officer sustained minor injuries and was released from the hospital shortly afterwards. Ten people were arrested at the scene or shortly after, and a manhunt ensued in the subsequent days for another defendant. Eight more defendants were arrested in the days and weeks following the protest.

December 4th - Alleged Antifa Cell Member Says He Was Accidentally Released, Turns Himself In: “I’m Not Hiding. Because I’m Innocent.”

by Matt Sledge (*The Intercept*)

For five months, Daniel Sanchez Estrada was the prisoner of a government that has branded him an “Antifa Cell operative.” He was accused of moving a box of anarchist zines from one suburb of Dallas to another after a protest against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

On the day before Thanksgiving, he was released without warning or explanation. He walked out to a jail parking lot relishing the fresh air — and watching over his shoulder.

During the week that followed, Sanchez Estrada savored his time with family members and worried that his release might have been an accident. Apparently, he was right.

On Thursday, Sanchez Estrada turned himself in to await a trial that could be months away.

It was another swerve in the case of a man who has been demonized by the federal government for actions he took after a protest against Donald Trump’s immigration crackdown. Civil liberties advocates have decried the case against him as “guilt by literature.” (The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Texas declined to comment and the Federal Bureau of Prisons did not immediately respond to a request.)

In a Wednesday night interview during his final hours of freedom, Sanchez Estrada said the decision to voluntarily surrender himself was gut-wrenching.

“As scary as it is, I’m innocent,” he said. “I just have to go through this process. It’s necessary to show that I’m not the person they say I am. I’m not fleeing. I’m not hiding. Because I’m innocent. I haven’t done anything.”

Sanchez Estrada spoke to *The Intercept* outside an ice cream shop in an upscale shopping mall in Fort Worth, Texas. He was set to turn himself back into jail 16 hours after the interview — but before that, he was treating his 12-year-old stepdaughter to sweets during his first meeting with her as a free man since his arrest in July.

Prairieview Protest

Prosecutors allege that Sanchez Estrada’s wife, Maricela Rueda, attended a chaotic protest outside ICE’s Prairieland Detention Center on July 4 that ended with a police officer wounded by gunfire. A separate defendant is the sole person accused of firing a gun at the officer.

The gathering outside the Alvarado, Texas, detention center happened in the context of huge rise in the number of immigrants detained under Trump, from 39,000 in January to 65,000 in November, which has been accompanied by reports of dire conditions inside.

Supporters of the Prairieland defendants say the protesters hoped to cause a ruckus with fireworks in a show of solidarity. The government has accused members of what it dubs the “North Texas antifa cell” of rioting and attempted murder.

No one claims that Sanchez Estrada was present at the protest. Instead, he is accused of moving anarchist zines from his parents’ house to another residence near Dallas after Rueda called him from jail. Sanchez Estrada was arrested when the move was spotted by FBI surveillance, according to the government.

Prosecutors said the zines contained “anti-law enforcement, anti-government and anti-Trump sentiments.” In a statement made outside of his interview, Sanchez Estrada said that possession of such items is clearly protected by the First Amendment.

“My charge is allegedly having a box containing magazine ‘zines,’ books, and artwork,” Sanchez Estrada said. “Items that should be protected under the First Amendment ‘freedom of speech.’ If this is happening to me now, it’s only a matter of time before it happens to you.”

Civil liberties groups such as the Freedom of the Press Foundation have denounced his case as “guilt by literature.” They warn that his could be the first of many such prosecutions in the wake of a presidential memo from Trump targeting “antifa” and other forms of “anti-Americanism.”

The purported “North Texas antifa cell” has been cited by FBI Director Kash Patel and others as a prime example of a supposed surge in the number of attacks on ICE officers — although a recent Los Angeles Times analysis found that unlike the incident in Texas, most of those alleged attacks resulted in no injury.

Sanchez Estrada faces up to 20 years on counts of corruptly concealing a document or record and conspiracy to conceal documents. The stakes are higher for him than other defendants because he is a green card holder, which ICE spotlighted in a social media post that included his picture and immigration history.

“I Did Not Participate”

Sanchez Estrada also worries about the fate of his wife, who faces life imprisonment if convicted. She pleaded not guilty in an arraignment Wednesday. The case is currently set for trial on January 20.

“I want to be very clear. I did not participate. I was not aware nor did I have any knowledge about the events that transpired on July 4 outside the Prairieland Detention Center,” Sanchez Estrada said in his statement. “My feeling is that I was only arrested because I’m married to Mari Rueda, who is being accused of being at the noise demo showing support to migrants who are facing deportation under deplorable conditions.”

Sanchez Estrada said that he spent his months in jail anguishing over how his stepdaughter would be affected and how his parents, for whom he is the primary supporter, would make ends meet.

A nature lover who peppers his speech with references to “the creator,” for Sanchez Estrada one of the toughest things about being in jail was not being able to breathe fresh air or watch the sun set.

He said he was immediately suspicious when jail officers told him that he was being released.

“You normally would assume the worst when you’re in there. I just did not believe them. I thought they would be waiting in the parking lot to arrest me,” he said.

Soon, however, Sanchez Estrada was eating vegan tacos and spending time with friends and family.

“It is something just beautiful to see — everyone rooting for you,” he said.

He fears what could happen when he returns to custody. Still, he will have a reminder of his brief return to life on the outside: freshly inked tattoos of a raccoon and an opossum.

“They’ve been here even before people,” he said. “They’re wild animals, and they’re beautiful.”

December 4th - Des’ First Public Statement

Hello! First of all. All honor and glory to creator for granting me the miracle of being here.

My name is Daniel Sanchez “Des,” and I’ve lived in the Dallas–Fort Worth area most of my life. I have been incarcerated in a federal facility about 5 months since July 6.

I want to be very clear. I did not participate. I was not aware nor did I have any knowledge about the events that transpired on July 4 outside the Prairieland Detention Center. Despite not having any knowledge or not having been near the area at all, I was violently arrested at gunpoint for allegedly making a “wide turn.” My feeling is that I was only arrested because I’m married to Mari Rueda, who is being accused of being at the noise demo showing support to migrants who are facing deportation under deplorable conditions. For this accusation, she’s being threatened with a life sentence in prison.

My charge is allegedly having a box containing magazine “zines,” books, and artwork. Items that are in the possession of millions of people in the United States. Items that are available free online, and available to purchase at stores and online even at places like Amazon. Items that should be protected under the First Amendment “freedom of speech.” If this is happening to me now, it’s only a matter of time before it happens to you.

I believe there’s been almost 20 people arrested in supposed relation to this public noise demo. More than half of those were arrested days later despite not being in the area and are now facing a slew of outrageous charges, in what seems like a political persecution to instill fear on people exercising their First Amendment right.

On November 2 around 9 a.m. while still in federal custody, I was suddenly ordered to pack all of my property, rushing me and refusing to let me know where I was going. I began to think the worst: that I was being moved away from loved ones for no reason other than to continue to put pressure on me to sign a plea agreement for something I didn’t do. Later on, I was told my charges had been dismissed and I was being released. But since I didn’t hear from my lawyer, I thought they were messing with me. Two hours later, I was being walked out of the prison with no paperwork. It felt like psychological torture, the anxiety, the uncertainty. I imagined they would just wait for me to walk out to arrest me again somehow.

The last few days have been very surreal, and it’s been a roller coaster of emotions. The fear and anxiety that they would raid my loved ones again or try to add more fictitious charges. To the love, joy, and laughter of seeing my family and hugging them one more time after the trauma we all endured. It’s a blessing, and we celebrated my birthday, Xmas, and New Years in one night.

I’m not a violent person. I love people and animals, walking in nature, making art, reading, cooking vegan food for people, teaching kids, and doing fundraisers for people and animals that need help. I co-parent a really cool stepdaughter who is amazing and super funny, and tragically, is now having to live without two of her most important adults, [me and Mari,] who were abruptly taken away from her. I’m thankful for everyone showing her and my family love and care while we overcome this tragic situation.

This has been a confusing, bittersweet moment, embracing my loved ones, just to be taken away from them again. The charges I and others are facing are scary, and I would be lying if I said I’m not scared. I love this

country and the promise of freedom of speech, justice, equity, and the pursuit of happiness. I'm not hiding. I'm not fleeing. And obvious I've never been a danger to the community. I'm turning myself in for trial because I'm innocent.

With a desire for a world full of love, kindness, empathy, equity, and freedom. Like in sunflowers breaking through concrete. Like butterflies flying freely. Under the same moon. I will continue to walk with dignity. I have faith and living hope in my heart.

Thank you all for the support. I can feel all of your love. I'm beyond grateful for every letter, poem, book, donation, and every prayer.

Honor creator and all existence. Love your neighbor as yourself. No one is free, until all are free. Blessings.

4 Dec - December Month of Action for Xinachtli

After weeks of medical neglect and declining health, we are calling for local, national and international support to demand that Xinachtli receives the critical medical care immediately!

MORE:

We have four ways you can support Xinachtli right now:

1. Call to put pressure for his demands on TDCJ and McConnell unit.
2. We are asking organizations to sign our demand letter to TDCJ. Link can be found in our bio or tinyurl.com/xsupportletter
3. Join us on December 13 to protest in Austin, Texas.
4. Donate to the campaign to support legal expenses.

Every day and every moment counts. We refuse to let our revolutionary elder Xinachtli die by incarceration. Please read the full post for more information on his condition and how to take action.

4 Dec - DOJ orders prison inspectors to stop considering LGBTQ safety standards

The Department of Justice has instructed inspectors to stop evaluating prisons and jails using standards designed to protect transgender, intersex and gender-nonconforming people from sexual violence, according to an internal memo obtained by National Public Radio (NPR).

MORE:

by Jaclyn Diaz (*National Public Radio*)

This population is uniquely vulnerable to attacks while incarcerated, data shows, and advocates say the change will put such people in even more danger.

The memo explains that DOJ is in the process of revising federal standards related to the 2003 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) in order to align with President Trump's executive order on "gender ideology extremism." The Jan. 20 executive order asserts that the United States recognizes only two sexes: male and female.

According to the DOJ memo, while the revision process is underway, detention centers that undergo PREA audits will no longer be inspected using standards specifically designed to keep LGBTQ and intersex people safe. The facilities include federal prisons, state prisons and jails, juvenile detention centers and immigration detention centers. These inspectors, referred to as auditors, are not employed by the DOJ, but are hired by corrections agencies or by individual facilities. The DOJ certifies the auditors and can decertify them.

The DOJ did not respond to NPR's request for comment on the memo. But this is the latest policy move by the Trump administration that removes legal protections for trans people — particularly those who are incarcerated. In his first few days in office, Trump upended long-standing federal policies that would allow

incarcerated trans women to be housed in a facility that aligns with their gender identity. Trump has also signed an executive order banning transgender troops from serving openly in the military and another restricting gender-affirming care for minors. These orders have faced a host of legal challenges and are still being fought in court.

PREA mandates regular audits for prisons and jails. Those audits are among the few oversight tools for evaluating whether detention centers follow laws meant to stop rape, harassment and retaliation.

Auditors visit facilities regularly to ensure the staff and officials are doing everything they are supposed to under PREA to prevent sexual abuse and harassment. They interview staff and inmates, tour the facilities and check existing procedures.

Linda McFarlane, executive director of Just Detention International, said this rollback "will immediately put people in danger." JDI is a human rights group dedicated to ending sexual abuse in detention. McFarlane also was involved in advocating for the passage of PREA in 2003.

"It's going to make people less safe," she said. "And when facilities are less safe for the most vulnerable and marginalized, they're less safe for everybody."

In practice, the memo says auditors will no longer review whether facilities house transgender people based on their gender identity and on a case-by-case basis. Among other changes, the memo also says auditors should no longer consider whether sexual assaults were motivated by gender-identity bias.

A major 2015 survey from the criminal justice group Black and Pink found that LGBTQ prisoners were over six times as likely to be sexually assaulted as the general prison population. This is based on survey responses from more than 1,110 inmates. According to Brenda Smith, a professor at American University Washington College of Law and director of The Project on Addressing Prison Rape, the available data doesn't show the whole picture and that rate could be higher.

(In 2003, Smith was appointed to the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission, which helped develop these very standards.)

She said the current changes laid out in the memo ignore this grim reality.

In the spring, the DOJ made massive funding cuts to crime-victim advocacy programs across the nation, including the National PREA Resource Center — the organization that trains auditors, tracks the outcomes of investigations and provides resources to victims and auditors. More than 360 grants were cut in April, but funding was reinstated for many of them following media reports of the cuts.

The DOJ at the time told *NPR* that it was "focused on prosecuting criminals, getting illegal drugs off of the streets, and protecting American institutions from toxic DEI and sanctuary city policies. Discretionary funds that are no longer aligned with the administration's priorities are subject to review and reallocation."

The standards designed to protect inmates from sexual violence were developed after years of bipartisan work. They were created in response to overwhelming data, anecdotal evidence and a landmark Human Rights Watch report that showed sexual violence was, and continues to be, a serious problem behind bars.

The most recent data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics shows that in 2020, correctional administrators reported 36,264 allegations of sexual victimization in prisons, jails and other adult correctional facilities. The allegations included incidents of sexual violence, harassment and misconduct carried out by inmates against other inmates and by staff members against inmates. The report said 2,351 of those allegations — a rate of 1.2 incidents per 1,000 inmates — were substantiated after investigation.

Lingering confusion

McFarlane's group, Just Detention International, says the DOJ memo lays out the government's plan to permanently revise the PREA standards and marks the first time the administration has publicly indicated what requirements it aims to remove.

But until the revisions are finalized through the ongoing rulemaking process, the memo instructs auditors to mark those standards as "not applicable" during audits — even though the rules technically remain in effect, according to the memo.

In a statement, the National Association of PREA Coordinators, a professional organization for coordinators who ensure agencies' compliance with the law, said that since the DOJ has not finalized any new regulations related to PREA, the current standards remain unchanged.

In the absence of a separate state or municipal law, the statement said, the DOJ memo allows each corrections agency or detention facility "to continue following the regulation or, if they choose, to ignore it."

The memo allows the DOJ "to implement the President's policy while allowing state and local governments to determine how to best meet the needs of incarcerated people who are transgender and gender diverse," according to the statement.

"Whether a system adopts a binary sex approach or one that recognizes a spectrum of gender, we cannot forsake our primary responsibility to keep the most vulnerable individuals in our care safe from those who present a threat of sexual abuse or sexual harassment," the statement said.

It's unclear how the DOJ plans to enforce the memo, and it's already sparked some confusion for at least one auditor.

Kenneth L. James, a PREA auditor for detention centers in multiple states, told *NPR* in an email that the memo makes the auditors' jobs "both more confusing and more difficult."

He said it will affect how the auditors are trained. "Some auditors have been auditing for over 10 years and conduct audits systematically," James said. "By removing these elements, auditors will have to reevaluate how they are auditing and may miscalculate compliance due to these unexpected changes."

But because PREA has been in place for more than 20 years and the prevalence of sexual abuse within the prison system is well-known, James said, "I believe and trust" that facilities "will do what is best for the incarcerated population."

5 Dec - NYC Books through Bars Needs Help

NYC Books through Bars received letters from people in prison and jail at Bluestockings Books for many years, until recently, when Bluestockings unfortunately closed.

MORE:

Due to an error, NYC Books through Bars was not included in the mail forwarding request and ALL OF OUR MAIL- 600-800 letters from people in prison have been returned to sender. People in prison will have received their letters back and assume we are no longer active. NOTHING CAN BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.

We have been active for almost 30 years and are going strong. We send books to people in prison and jail in 40 states. We need your help to get the word out that:

- We are active and will continue to send books to people in prison and jail
- Our new address is:

**NYC Books through Bars
c/o Freebird Books
123 Columbia Street
Brooklyn, New York 11231**

We have a greeting letter/one page PDF that we can email you. If you could include it in ANY mailings sent to people in prison and jail, or print this information in your newsletter, we would greatly appreciate this.

This is a bump in the road. There have been others and there will be more but we really do not want the people we serve to think we are not active.

6 Dec - Prisoners Alarmed to Discover That a Startup Is Training an AI Based on Their Phone Calls

"There's literally no other way you can communicate with your family."

MORE:

by Joe Wilkins (*Futurism*)

For years, a US telecommunications company has been building proprietary AI models using phone and video calls placed by inmates in US prisons as building blocks.

According to *MIT Technology Review*, the private equity-backed Securus Technologies has been developing its AI products since 2023, but it has troves of recorded conversations going back far longer. The exact sources of this data is unknown, but it reportedly includes facilities ranging from local jails to long-term prisons to Immigrations and Customs Enforcement detention centers.

The AI models are designed to detect “criminal activity” in real time, Securus president Kevin Elder told *Tech Review*. One model, for example, was trained on seven year’s worth of calls by inmates in Texas state prisons for use in Texas, which suggests the company is tailoring its various AI models on local or at least state-wide conditions.

“We can point that large language model at an entire treasure trove [of data] to detect and understand when crimes are being thought about or contemplated, so that you’re catching it much earlier in the cycle,” Elder told the publication.

Those who talk on either side of an inmate phone call are notified that their conversation is being recorded, but as Bianca Tylek, executive director of inmate advocacy group Worth Rises puts it, that system is tantamount to “coercive consent.”

“There’s literally no other way you can communicate with your family,” she said.

John Dukes, who spent time in New York’s Sing Sing prison, recalled in an interview with *The Intercept* that Securus was testing voice recognition software on him as early as 2019.

“Here’s another part of myself that I had to give away again in this prison system,” he said at the time.

Now thanks to the developments of AI, the system is much more advanced, enabling voice recognition of both post- and pre-trial detainees, as well as their family, friends, and lawyers.

Per *Tech Review*, the end game is for Securus to supply prison officials with a versatile tool to either monitor specific inmates suspected of organizing crimes over the phone, or to conduct random inspections of the general population.

It all underscores a chilling reality: in the US, mass incarceration is a highly profitable business. Prison phone systems, for example, make up a formal industry called Inmate Calling Services (ICS). According to the Prison Journalism Project, the annual US market for ICS is \$1.2 billion, and is largely dominated by two companies. One of the pair is Securus.

In a world where data is the new oil — and in a country where nearly 2 million people are incarcerated — it seems an inmate's phone call home is no longer just an exorbitant charge on a family's bill, but raw material for the AI designed to monitor the next one.

7 Dec - Update on Yorch: Saying Goodbye

Mexico: A very hard update on the comrade Jorge "Yorch" Esquivel.

MORE:

via *Falling Into Incandescence*

Thank you very much for all your letters, love, and solidarity with our beloved Yorch. We have read each and every one of your messages and we are very grateful because we know that he hears us and knows that he is not alone.

We want to share with you that our compañero's health has become more delicate every day. Even with the dignified attention that he is finally receiving and the enormous and loving efforts made by doctors and hospital personnel charged with his treatment, due to the advanced state of deterioration he was in upon arriving at the hospital — where he is now — it has been very complex attending to his urgent condition. After the long period of medical neglect, the effects of the damned prison on all facets of prisoners' health — and more in this case, where the violence of the State and UNAM orchestrated repression against him — and his prior medical issues which themselves paint a picture of potential complications due to his hospitalization, multiple surgeries, and irreversible damage suffered in 2019 when Yorch survived appendicitis that was not treated in time.

Sadly, our compañero now does not have the possibility of recovering a dignified quality of life and he has a very high probability of remaining in the state he is in now and due to the risks presented by the procedures and treatments indicated by his clinical state in the coming days. During recent weeks, Yorch was wandering from site to site without precise information. We did not receive clear news regarding his condition, treatment, or anything else. The prison authorities and those of the various hospitals where he has been this past month did not inform us of the severity of his condition until he arrived at the current hospital and we learned minutes before they had to intubate him — due to neurological failures that don't allow for him to breathe unaided — that this was just a small part of the series of complications he has. The situation took us completely by surprise.

With pain in our hearts, we believe that the most loving thing we can do at this time is to take responsibility that the best for our Yorch is that he stops suffering and that his body may finally rest. He needs our accompaniment, solidarity, and support to face this difficult and painful transition. We know that he is faced with a complex decision that, on one hand, he would want to stay here with us and attend to your calls for strength and recovery, but, on the other hand, his body no longer has the possibility of meeting these desires.

With much attention, we ask that you send all your love, care, fire, and wishes so that he may go through this transition accompanied by us and have a dignified death. We want you to have the opportunity to say goodbye in the way that each of you are able. To do so, we call upon you to gather, starting now, from your different geographies and collectivities to place a candle, flowers, smoke, punk and noise songs...all that can transport your wishes from your hearts to his.

We also thank you for continuing to send your letters to yorchlibre@gmail.com. You can write about your history with him, what he means to you, and the way in which you would like to say goodbye. As difficult

and painful as this is for every one of us, it is very important for his process. We will continue reading your words during visits, which are unfortunately limited to people authorized by the prison since the beginning of this long journey of hospitalizations and transfers.

We continue fighting for his freedom and dignity, be it in life or in death. Fire to the prisons, free Yorch now!

PS: We know that many of you have greater concerns due to your direct relationship with Yorch, but we hope you understand that this is the information we have available. We regret that we cannot respond to every message we receive, but time and mental capacity do not allow for that. Without getting into personal issues, we appreciate your respect for our path and for being part of this struggle. Thank you also for caring about us and looking out for our well-being.

10 Dec - RAPP Anti-Gala

WHAT: Gathering

WHEN: 6:30pm, Wednesday, December 10th

WHERE: Threes Brewing - 333 Douglass Street, Brooklyn

COST: \$75-250, Sliding Scale

MORE:

For the past two years, RAPP has closed out the year with a gala to celebrate our work and our community. But this year has been outrageously heavy—and celebration doesn't quite feel possible.

At this moment, we see clearly what politicians, the rich, and people outside of our community expect from those fighting to change the system—performative displays of gratitude and polished appeals for resources. We can't do that anymore.

What we can do is gather in truth, in grief, and in power. And while we refuse to conform to prescribed expectations, we still urgently need funding to continue our work, to sustain our organizers, our tactics, and to fight for the freedom and dignity of our people.

On DECEMBER 10th, 2025, RAPP will take a moment and come together:

- To honor those we've lost to the system.
- To share the joy we find in one another.
- To recommit to the fight to bring our people ♡ HOME ♡.

This year, RAPP's Anti-Gala is about remembrance, love, and renewal. Together, we'll honor all the people we've lost while inside, and hold space for the family members, loved ones, community, organizers, friends and those committed to fighting for justice, dignity, and freedom. Please, join us.

Your \$75 ticket supports RAPP's ongoing work to free aging people from prison, transform New York's parole system, and build a future rooted in radical care and not cages.

13 Dec - WORLD WAR 3 Illustrated #55

WHAT: Book Release

WHEN: 1:00pm, Saturday, December 13th

WHERE: Interference Archive - 314 7th Street, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

Join us for a conversation with Palestinian and New York based comics artists, and pick up your copy of World War 3 Illustrated #55—"The Right to Live In Peace" from AK Press. Named for Victor Jara's iconic resistance anthem, The Right to Live In Peace includes work by Palestinian artists sharing their struggles

and narratives in their own voices, many available for the first time in the US; and artists from around the world creating work in solidarity with artists in Palestine.

13 Dec - ABC No Rio Benefit

WHAT: Benefit Concert

WHEN: 6:00pm, Saturday, December 13th

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

COST: \$10-20 at the door

MORE:

Benefit for ABC NO RIO's new building, featuring Crush Fund (Dance Punk), SubRosa (Melodic Political Punk), Jolana Star (Peace Punk), and Tober Lions (Garage Punk).

14 Dec - Send Love Through the Walls 2025

WHAT: Send Love Through The Walls: Holiday Card-Writing For Political Prisoners

WHEN: Sunday, December 14th, 2025 10:00am-1:30pm

WHERE: Principles (139 9th Street, Brooklyn 11215)

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

MORE:

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

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

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

GUIDELINES:

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

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

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

ON THE ENVELOPE:

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