

UPDATE

AN ABCF PUBLICATION



Fall 2004

"Any movement that does not support their political internees is a sham movement." - O. Lutalo

Issue #40



Ray Luc
Levasseur

&

Sherman
Austin

US Political
Prisoners

RELEASED!

- Death Penalty Again Looms Over Mumia's Head
- Veronza Bowers Denied MANDATORY Release
- Black Panther Arrested in Canada
- Sudiata Acoli Denied Parole
- Antonio Camacho Not Released
- Larry Giddings in Halfway House

WHAT IS THE ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS FEDERATION?

The origins of the Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) date prior to the Russian Revolution of 1905. It was an off-shoot of the Political Red Cross, known in its earlier stages as the Anarchist Red Cross (ARC). It was formed to organize aid for Anarchist and Social Revolutionary Political Prisoners and their families. In early 1920's, the ABC organized armed resistance against political raids by the Cossack and Red armies.

In its early decades, the organization had chapters throughout Europe and North America. These chapters worked together to provide assistance to prisoners only in Russia. Soon other groups, such as the Lettish Anarchist Red Cross, emerged to provide aid in other areas besides Russia. Armed with the ideas of *mutual aid* and *sol* -

idity, these groups worked tirelessly to provide support to those who suffered because of the political beliefs back home.

In 1919, the organization's name changed to the Anarchist Black Cross to avoid confusion with the International Red Cross. Through the 1920's until 1958, the organization worked under various other names but provided the same level of support as the other groups working as Anarchist Black Cross. The organization expanded its aid to places like Greece, Italy, and Spain.

In 1958, the organization collapsed but reemerged in 1967 in London, England. Once again ABC chapters spread throughout the globe providing support for imprisoned comrades. Sadly, by the end of the 1970's only a handful of ABC chapters still existed.

In the 80's, the ABC began to gain popularity again in the US and Europe. Since then the ABC's name has been kept alive by a number of completely autonomous groups scattered throughout the globe and has grown to support a wide variety of prison issues.

In May of 1995, a small group of ABC collectives merged into a Federation whose aim was to focus on the overall support and defense of Political Prisoners. Various groups have since merged in numerous networks throughout the globe working on various prison issues. The Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) has continued its mission to focus on the aid and support of Political Prisoners. We take the position that PP/POW's demand our top priority. We strive to continue with the same dedication and solidarity to our fallen comrades as those before us have shown.

Introduction:

"Crucially important to maintaining the anarchist integrity of this organization is the fact that Branch Groups and Support Groups are freely autonomous to take on whatever initiatives they can to further the Unity of Purpose of the ABCF. So long as these initiatives do not contradict any preexisting agreements (Tactical Unity) that have been made by the ABCF, it is not necessary for all groups to approve of and/or agree with programs, projects or work of other ABCF collectives." [from the ABCF Constitution and Structure]

The following definitions are used to describe the below terms whenever they appear in the ABCF Update or any other ABCF literature.

Political Prisoner: A person incarcerated for actions carried out in support of legitimate struggles for self determination or for opposing the illegal policies of the government and/or its political subdivisions. [Special International Tribunal on the Violation of Human Rights of PP/POW's in U.S. Prisons and Jails, Dec. '90]

Prisoner of War: Those combatants struggling against colonial and alien domination and racist regimes captured as prisoners are to be accorded the status of prisoner of war and their treatment should be in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August, 1949 (General Assembly resolution 3103 {XXVIII})

Sending Submissions & Subscriptions to the ABCF Update

The Update is a publication of the Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF). Its purpose is the promotion of the ABCF and the building of a support network for PP's/POW's. Work reports are eligible only from ABCF collectives and should consist of activities ABCF collectives are doing in support of the ABCF, PP/POW's, and rebuilding the movements they are from. Letters from PP/POW's, news or notes on PP/POW's and related items are also acceptable and are greatly encouraged.

Deadline for the Fall issue is Oct 27th 2004. All submissions should be sent to Los Angeles ABC. All work reports, letters, and news/notes to be printed, must be received on time and sent to Los Angeles ABC. Failure to do so will result in the articles not being printed in that specific issue.

Subscriptions are \$15 per year, bulk subscriptions (20 copies each issue) are \$25 dollars per year. Prisoners subscription is twelve .37 cent stamps per year. For subscriptions, send well hidden cash, checks/money orders made out to **Matthew Hart**.

Los Angeles Anarchist Black Cross has the right to edit or alter any submission as long as it does not change the content or meaning of the article or work report. If there are any issues regarding the editing or altering of articles published in the ABCF Update, please contact the Los Angeles chapter regarding this issue.

The ABCF is:

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NEWS FROM THE FRONT

Sherman in Halfway House

On July 13th we received news that Sherman Austin, from the Raise the Fist case, was transferred to a halfway house where he will stay until August, 2004. Sherman will remain on probation where he will be limited of use from the computer and other restrictions.

For details on Sherman's homecoming and probation, please visit www.freesherman.org

Please send letters and donations to:
Sherman Austin
c/o Jennifer Martin Ruggiero
12115 Magnolia Blvd. #155
North Hollywood, CA 91607

Kilgore Convicted

Former Symbionese Liberation Army member James Kilgore, who dodged authorities on bomb and murder charges for decades, was sentenced Monday, April 26, 2004, to 54 months in prison on federal explosives and passport fraud convictions.

Kilgore, who was extradited from South Africa in 2002 after living there for more than a decade as a professor, was a member of the 1970s radical group that kidnapped newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst.

Authorities say he was the last unaccounted-for member of the revolutionary group to face justice.

Levassuer in Halfway House

Raymond Luc Levasseur, member of the United Freedom Front has been released from prison after serving 18 years in federal prison. Levasseur, Ray left prison after 20 years. On Friday he entered Pharos House, a halfway facility in Portland, Maine, where he will stay until November 4. He will then be on probation. The federal government convicted Bro. Ray, along with six codefendants comprising the so-called "Ohio 7," for conspiracy and bombing military and corporate facilities. These United Freedom Front (UFF) actions were part of an effort to bring the public's attention to corporate and government criminal activity in South Africa and Central America. No one was harmed in any UFF actions. Codefendants Thomas Manning, Jaan Laaman and Richard Williams remain in federal prison.

Jamil Al-Amin Case

The Georgia Supreme Court In May unanimously upheld the 2002 conviction of Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, formerly known as H. Rap Brown, for the murder of a sheriff's deputy in March of 2000.

During Al-Amin's trial, the prosecutor presented the jury in his closing argument with a slide titled "Questions for the Defendant." The slide listed what the prosecutor claimed were holes in the case. Such

action violated Al-Amin's right not to testify during his trial.

The court said that Mr. Al-Amin's "constitutional and statutory rights were violated" but the violation was "harmless beyond a reasonable doubt."

Al-Amin and his supporters have long argued that he was framed by a government that has feared him since his days in radical racial politics. Despite evidence of harassment by the government for decades and several attempts to falsely charge him with murder, the courts rejected his plea.

Lamont Release Postponed

Matt Lamont has had his date of release pushed back to October 20th due to what he describes as "a kangaroo court." He was also transferred to Lancaster prison in Los Angeles County. He was there last year and says it's one of the most corrupt prisons in southern California, with staged fights and set up's. He is not happy about going back there and needs support from everyone. Here is his new address:

Matt Lamont, T90251
44750 60th St. West
Lancaster, CA 93536

Thaxton Transferred

Rob Thaxton has been transferred from the Oregon State Prison in Salem, OR, to the Mill Creek Correctional Facility near Salem. The reason for the transfer is unclear to us. Rob's new address is:

Robert Thaxton, #12112716
Mill Creek Correctional Facility
4005 Aumsville Hwy,
Salem, OR 97310

Rodriguez Medical Condition

Alberto Rodriguez, former Puerto Rican political prisoner, has recently been diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer. He was scheduled to undergo surgery on June 4th. Cards may be sent to him care of the People's Law Office, 1180 N. Milwaukee, Chicago, IL 60622. We wish Alberto a speedy recovery, and a long and healthy life!

Fitzgerald Denied Parole

On Friday, Aug. 7, Romaine 'Chip' Fitzgerald went before the Board of Prison Terms for a parole hearing. Unfortunately the board again denied his parole. Regardless, because of the efforts of Chip, family and friends, this was Chip's most positive hearing in his 35 years of imprisonment. Romaine 'Chip' Fitzgerald is a former member of the Black Panther Party out of Southern California. On October 9, 1969 he was arrested for the murder of a security guard in the Los Angeles area and is considered the longest held political prisoner in the US.

Jalil Denied Parole

Jalil Muntaqim has been denied parole.

They have given him a 24 month hit. His next parole review will be in July of 2006. Jalil was captured along with Albert Nuh Washington in a midnight shoot-out with San Francisco police. (It has been alleged that Jalil and Nuh attempted to assassinate a S.F. police sergeant in retaliation for the August 21, 1971 assassination of George Jackson.) Subsequently, Jalil was charged with a host of revolutionary underground activities, including the assassination of NYC police officers for which he is currently serving a life sentence.

Eddie Hatcher Transferred

American Indian Prisoner Eddie Hatcher has been transferred from Maury back to Marion. His current address is:

Eddie Hatcher, #0173499,
Marion Corr. Inst.,
Marion, NC 28752

visit www.eddiehatcher.org

Giddings in Halfway House

Larry Giddings has been released from Federal custody. He is presently in a halfway house in Seattle. Giddings was detained for conspiring and attempting to liberate another revolutionary from the King County Jail in Seattle, Washington in 1979. Despite his release, Giddings still may face a deportation case.

Camacho Not Released

Today Puerto Rican political prisoner Antonio Camacho was to have been released from federal prison. However it appears his release may not take place today. He still has a fine, imposed as part of his sentence, which he has not paid. When this not uncommon circumstance arises, the jailers are supposed to present the prisoner in court for a hearing. If the judge determines that the person is indigent and unable to pay the fine, he issues an order to that effect, and the person is then released from prison. Officials at FCI Allenwood apparently neglected to arrange for Antonio's hearing in time for him to be released on his scheduled release date. Attorney Linda Backiel is in contact with the prison, attempting to ensure that he is released as soon as possible.

Contactos del Comité: Lic. Eduardo Villanueva 787/872-2486 o 787/612-7840; Dr. José Paralítico 787/318-1460.

Puede comunicarse también con la Lic. Linda Backiel 215/438-250

Sundiata Denied Parole

Sundiata has been denied parole by the NY State Parole Board. He has been in jail for 30 years for his involvement in the Black Liberation Army (BLA) and the self-defense killing of a police officer on the New Jersey turnpike. Also with Sundiata during the altercation was Assata Shakur who is presently free in Cuba.

Danger During the 2004 Election Year

This is an article was published by the new e-magazine, 4strug-
glemag. The magazine is published jointly by Jaan Laaman and
Montreal ABCF. As a way to promote the magazine and its efforts,
The ABCF Update will also publish one of the articles from each
issue. The article published here is one written by Jaan Laaman, a
political prisoner and member of the United Freedom Front (UFF.)
Jaan has been in prison for nearly twenty years for his involvement
in the struggle against U.S. imperialism.



Conspiracy theories of history or cur-
rent events, while often intriguing, primari-
ly lead us astray. Such views get people so
concentrated on the "secret schemes and
cabals," that we do not recognize or disre-
gard the real problems and enemies in front
of us. Having just said all this, let me now
raise a rather paranoid possibility.

Early in this 2004 election year, the
Democrats vs. the Republicans rhetoric is
already loud and negative. Additionally,
there are very real popular concerns, espe-
cially about the Bush government's inva-
sions and wars and its corresponding grow-
ing police state within the U.S. This year
we will see large demonstrations and a
growing opposition to George Bush and his
government. This will be fueled by the
unending reality that more and more U.S.
occupation troops in Iraq and Afghanistan
will come home in coffins, and even more
will come back crippled and maimed.

The President's poll ratings have been
dropping. Now that all the original reasons
for the invasion and war in Iraq have been
proven false, there is a growing mistrust of
Bush and his government among more and
more Americans. The government has not
admitted to its mistakes or miss-statements.
In fact, George Bush has called for even

stronger police state laws and new U.S.
troops are being rotated in to occupy Iraq.

What we have witnessed, particularly
this winter, is an increasing use of alarms
and warnings of danger by the government.
The federal color-coded alert warning level
was recently elevated for several weeks.
Shortly after that, many international
flights were grounded, halted or banned
because of new government warnings. And
just recently much of the U.S. Senate was
shut down because of a ricin-poisoned let-
ter that was found in the office of
Republican Leader Frist.

All of these events were given huge
exposure in the media. Interestingly, each
of these official warnings and alerts came
on the heels of new critical revelations
about the government. The U.S. body count
in Iraq passed 500, new terror warnings.
Former Treasury Secretary O'Neil's book
about Bush's pre-9/11/01 plan to invade
Iraq came out; the alert levels were raised.
U.S. weapons hunter David Kay resigned
and admitted there were no weapons in
Iraq, and ricin is found in the Senate. These
are just the most recent three events. They
could all be coincidences, but at the least it
is clear that the timing of government
warnings and their release to the media is

used to counteract any mounting criticism
of Bush and his government.

We need to keep alert to the timing of
these warnings and other ongoing news and
events. More importantly, as this presidential
campaign heats up and if Bush is doing poor-
ly by this summer, the one thing that would
give him this election would be a significant
attack against the U.S., especially here in
America. With the proven deceptive nature
of this administration, on top of the murder-
ous history of the CIA and U.S. imperialism
in the past 50 years, it is not simply paranoid
thinking to worry about an attack being
"allowed" to happen, or even "engineered"
by some secret U.S. cop or military unit.

Yes, admittedly this is a paranoid worry,
but we are dealing with a government and
system that easily and repeatedly lied and
misled people in this country and in the
world as it launched its war on Iraq. The
question to ask is, do you

feel there are elements in this govern-
ment that would allow or create an attack
against the U.S., to win this election? At
the very least, this kind of question needs
to be asked. Hopefully in the process of
many people raising it, we would also
begin to provide some measure of defense
against such a despicable act.

Response to the Supreme Court Denial

by *Leonard Peltier*

Hello friends and supporters,

As I sit here writing and rewriting this response to the Supreme
Court denial of my appeal, I can't help but remember you, my sup-
porters, friends and allies.

Many people have come and gone in my life, some I may never
see again in this lifetime and some have left and come back again.
I have come to recognize that true relatives aren't always related by
the blood that flows in your veins, but by the blood, sweat and
tears that is given for the common good of all.

It is never easy to deal with these setbacks and as you get older
and the realities of mortality set in, time becomes increasingly
important. It goes so exceeding slow waiting for justice and so fast
when you look at what's left.

From inside this prison I have done my best to help raise my
kids and grandchildren and yet maintain a level of commitment to

raising awareness to the plight of my people and all Indigenous
Peoples who face on a daily basis the cruel realities of a techno-
logical world where might makes right and morality be damned.

I want you to know that whether we win this battle for me or
not, you my relatives have my heart always. I am almost 60 years
old, but I'll tell you now the oppressors will know we're here.
They'll know they are challenged at every turn. Sometimes it's not
up to us to decide whether we are winning or losing; it rests with-
in the will of the Creator. What is up to us is our will to continue
the battle. The battle will never be over so long as one person is a
victim of this oppressive, exploitive mind-set that has engulfed so
much of the world.

I'm a realist; I know that I'm not the cause; I'm only a focal
point of the cause. The cause is the cause of all, and with the lat-
est turmoil in government you will soon become acutely aware of
the ramifications of these illegal decisions in Washington for as

they have done to me, they'll do to others and have done to others. There are other prisoners that you haven't heard of because the misdeeds of the FBI and other governmental entities aren't as well documented. This government has literally passed retroactive laws that have prevented the legal release of myself and others, but I also want you to know that we have other strategies that we are working on. We have a Habeas Corpus filed in Washington that will soon be in litigation regarding these constitutional violations.

I want to encourage you to help in whatever way that you can. We need funds for the preparation of legal briefs, legal research, filing fees, attorneys and travel expenses as well as for the ongoing cost of maintaining our committee and info center.

Those that can't contribute on a monetary basis can pass out pamphlets, hold meetings, and help the staff organize events. Any and all help is so much appreciated.

My relatives - stay strong and remember: for the sickness of the world, we are the antidote.

In The Spirit Of Crazy Horse,
Leonard Peltier
Mitakuye Oyasin
(Written May 6, 2004)

Write To Leonard at:

Leonard Peltier
#89637-132
USP-Leavenworth
PO Box 1000
Leavenworth, KS
66048-1000



Leonard Peltier Support Group Calls for Boycott

by the Boston Area Leonard Peltier Support Group

Last week both the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and the Boston Area Leonard Peltier Support Group received notification from PayPal, our website credit card verification and payment processing service, that our accounts had been closed. Neither the defense committee nor the Boston support group is currently able to receive donations via the internet.

This disruption is having a direct impact on our ability to fund the work of the committee. Therefore, the Boston Area Leonard Peltier Support Group is calling for a boycott of PayPal and its parent company, eBAY.

The boycott is being launched with Leonard Peltier's approval and only after extensive discussions over a four-day period between the Boston Area Leonard Peltier Support Group, the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and Leonard's lead counsel. Concurrently, negotiations were attempted with PayPal with no success. Once we were sufficiently convinced that the committee, in particular, and the Peltier Network, in general, was under attack, we felt we had to take action. Integral to that decision is the fact that PayPal's action against the LPDC is not the only action taken against its fundraising efforts in recent months.

The modest funds raised through our web sites are used for public education programs, political and lobbying actions and legal strategies undertaken on behalf of Leonard Peltier. Peltier is an imprisoned Native American considered by Amnesty International, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the National Congress of American Indians, the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Rev. Jesse Jackson, among many others, to be a political prisoner who should be immediately released. He has been in prison for 27 years.

We do these things to keep Peltier's hope for freedom alive. While such activi-

ties are likely inconvenient for the U.S. government, they are not illegal. On the contrary, these activities represent the free exercise of our constitutional rights.

Last week, PayPal notified us that we are in violation of its relatively new Offensive Material Policy, which can be read at http://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=p/gen/ua/use/index_frame-outside&ed=offensive.

The policy prohibits "organizations that promote or glorify hatred, violence, or racial intolerance (such as the KKK, Nazis, neo-Nazis, and Aryan Nation), from using PayPal to accept payments. ... PayPal may also, in its discretion and out of respect for the families of murder victims, prohibit the use of PayPal to sell items closely associated with individuals notorious for committing murderous acts within the last 100 years, such as personal belongings of criminals, letters or artwork created by such criminals, or novelty items that bear the name or image of the criminal."

Calling Leonard Peltier "notorious for committing murderous acts," PayPal has now closed our accounts, preventing us from receiving donations electronically, and told us that our funds collected through the online service may be frozen for up to 180 days.

PayPal doesn't monitor websites itself but depends on "members of the community" to bring alleged violations to its attention. We can only speculate as to who those "members of the community" were in this case.

Leonard Peltier was convicted for the deaths of two FBI agents who died during a 1975 shoot-out on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. President Bill Clinton, just as he was leaving office, announced he would grant clemency to Peltier, then abruptly changed his mind when FBI agents marched in the streets in protest.

PayPal also claims to have done an exhaustive evaluation of the LPDC and Boston sites for "offensive" material. There

they must have seen the announcement of Leonard Peltier's nomination for the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. He has been officially nominated by three past winners of the prize and has received support for his nomination from Desmond Tutu, Tenzin Gyatso (the 'Dalai Lama'), Rigoberto Menchu and Nelson Mandela.

They would also find political action materials for the upcoming presidential election, encouraging Indigenous and other U.S. voters to use their votes to help win Leonard's freedom.

We consider this policy and PayPal's actions to be an attack on our political beliefs, interference with our right to participate in the "democratic" political process, and an intentional effort on the part of PayPal and its parent company eBAY to interfere with our - and your - constitutional rights. Such corporate actions - taken at the behest of the U.S. government or not - are an affront to activists everywhere and threaten our basic freedoms.

We believe this boycott is about much higher issues than just the survival of the Peltier Network. If it happened to us, it can happen to you. ANY organization with which PayPal takes issue can be shut down in the same manner.

Whether an action is taken independently by PayPal or at the request of an entity such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or even instigated by an individual bearing a personal grudge, we find PayPal's policies objectionable - more than that, intolerable. The internet has been a great equalizer, has it not? What kind of a message is PayPal sending to social, political and environmental activists and people of color? The internet is for some, but not "others"?

As human and civil rights organizations, our mission is to combat various forms of injustice. When one of our organizations is singled out as PayPal has done with the Peltier Network, we must all stand togeth-

er. As Sitting Bull said, "As individual fingers we can easily be broken, but all together we make a mighty fist."

We apologize to anyone inconvenienced by our sudden call for a boycott of PayPal and eBay. While Leonard Peltier is our primary concern, we also were concerned about the possible impact of our boycott on other activist organizations. This is why a

list of alternative services is provided at the end of our communication. We are confident, in this electronic age, that affected websites will be able to adjust quickly. Many tell us they already have.

We will NOT go away! Join the LPDC/BA-LPSG boycott of PayPal and its parent company eBay. Ask yourself if PayPal is really your pal. Spread the word to

friends, family, colleagues and co-workers:

Don't use the PayPal service on websites you own or manage. Alternative resources are listed below.

Don't donate to or purchase from sites that use the PayPal service.

Don't buy or sell auction items using eBay. Send them the message that we find THEIR policy and actions "offensive."

Death Penalty Again Looms Over Mumia's Head

On June 29, 2004, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit lifted its stay in regard to consideration of any material in the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal. The court had been awaiting a decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Beard v. Banks* which could have resulted in the reinstatement of the death penalty against Mumia.

Indeed, while Mumia's lead attorney Robert R. Bryan told the ICFFMAJ that: "The decision in the Banks case clearly does not effect Mumia's case and the death penalty does not apply," state prosecutors in Pennsylvania have taken the opposite position, arguing that the Banks decision affirms the state's order to execute Mumia and that Mumia must remain on death row. Both sides have been given 30 days to submit briefs on this single issue."

Following a determination, Bryan will additionally submit Mumia's appeal of the 2001 U.S. District Court regarding racist jury selection practices and later, additional appeals of the District Court's rulings on a wide range of issues.

Bryan summed up the impact of the latest developments: "Mumia's case is now moving forward on the fast track. He is in grave danger. Pennsylvania state authorities want to silence his voice and pen and are pressing hard once again for the death penalty. They originally thought this could be accomplished by convicting this innocent man, placing him on death row and executing them. They have been proven wrong. Mumia's voice against injustice and oppression is now stronger. It is heard and read throughout the world. In over three decades of litigating death-penalty cases, I have not seen one in which the government wants so badly to kill a client. We are confident that Pennsylvania's effort to execute Mumia will once again fail. We are confident that we will win his freedom."

The June 29th U.S. Court of Appeals briefing order came on the heels of a June 24, 2004 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the case of *Beard v. Banks*. Mr. Bryan explained that *Beard v. Banks* is a complicated case. The Supreme Court ruled on the appeal by Pennsylvania state authorities stemming from a Court of Appeals decision that invalidated the death sentence of George Banks, who has been on death row over 20 years for multiple murder. Mr.

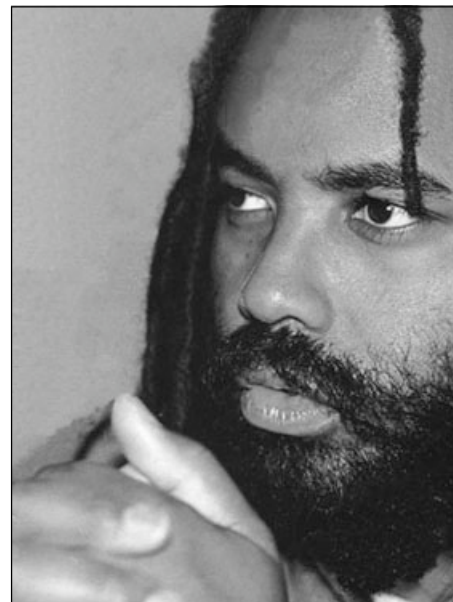
Banks' death sentence had been overturned by the Court of Appeals on the grounds that the instructions to the jury in Banks' case violated a Supreme Court ruling which held that jurors did not have to agree unanimously on the existence of mitigating circumstances in order to vote against the death penalty. The key issue in the Banks case was whether another case, *Mills v. Maryland*, 486 U.S. 367 decided in 1988 could be applied retroactively. The Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit had ruled that *Mills* was retroactive and therefore applied to Banks, which became final in 1987.

In Mumia's case retroactivity regarding Banks/*Mills* was not an issue since Mumia's proceeding was technically finalized in 1990 and therefore was fully covered by *Mills*.

On June 24, in a 5-4 decision written by Justice Clarence Thomas, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed a critical portion of the *Mills/Banks* case, which held as unconstitutional capital sentencing schemes that require juries to disregard mitigating factors not found unanimously. The Supreme Court ruled that *Mills* did not apply retroactively. The court determined

"They originally thought this could be accomplished by convicting this innocent man, placing him on death row and executing them. They have been proven wrong. Mumia's voice against injustice and oppression is now stronger. It is heard and read throughout the world."

that the Banks conviction became final in 1987, thus the 1988 *Mills* decision did not affect his case even though what had occurred was unconstitutional. Hence, Mr. Banks and some 30 other Pennsylvania death row inmates similarly situated could not benefit from the *Mills* decision and



their original death penalty judgments must stand.

Mr. Bryan pointed out that Supreme Court Justice Stevens, joined by Justices Souter, Ginsburg, and Breyer, strongly dissented.

Justice Stevens said that the "use of such a procedure is unquestionably unconstitutional today, and I believe it was equally so in 1987 when respondent's death sentence became final." He further explained that "*Mills* simply represented a straightforward application of our longstanding view that 'the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments cannot tolerate the infliction of a sentence of death under [a] legal system [m] that permit [s] the unique penalty to be . . . wantonly and . . . freakishly imposed.'" Justice Souter said that "a death sentence based upon a verdict of 11 jurors who would have relied on a given mitigating circumstance to spare a defendant's life, and a single holdout who blocked them from doing so, would surely be an egregious failure to express the public conscience accurately."

He found that too much importance is given "to the finality of capital sentences and not enough to their accuracy."

There are other legal developments concerning the fight to free Mumia. Robert Bryan is awaiting a ruling on a petition that he filed in the trial court, the Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia, concerning

new evidence of innocence and prosecutorial fraud. This concerns evidence presented by Yvette Evette Williams demonstrating that the prosecution's chief "eyewitness," Cynthia White, was not present at the murder scene of Police Officer Daniel Faulkner and that Williams lied in regard to her identification of Mumia Abu-Jamal as the killer.

Bryan will also appeal the decision of the U.S. District to deny certificates of appealability in regard to a number of

issues where Mumia's fundamental constitutional rights were violated, including his right to be present at his own trial and his right to self-representation.

Additionally, he will seek to appeal a Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision rejecting Mumia's request that Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Ronald Castille recuse (remove) himself from the panel considering Mumia's case on the grounds that Castille had served as a prosecutor in the same case. Bryan noted

that Castille, a former Pennsylvania District Attorney had authorized a secret training video that instructed state prosecutors as to how to eliminate Blacks from Pennsylvania juries.

Finally, Bryan will also be attempting to go back into the federal court regarding the statement by the trial judge, Albert Sabo, who said during the trial in reference to Mumia:

"Yeah, and I'm going to help 'em fry the n****r."

Olson is Re-sentenced to 13 Years!

Former Symbionese Liberation Army member Sara Jane Olson received a slightly reduced sentence after a hearing in Chowchilla on Tuesday.

Olson's prison term was cut by just one year. Instead of serving 14 years for the attempted bombing of Los Angeles police cars in 1975, she will serve 13 years.

The sentence reduction follows a hearing on September 7, in which prosecutors presented evidence to justify their request for double the normal sentence for Olson.

Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Eleanor Hunter argued that Olson's activities as an SLA member are a rationale for the long sentence. "This woman manufac-

tured pipe bombs," said Hunter. "These were some of the biggest pipe bombs ever made in this country."

Olson was also involved in a botched 1975 bank robbery in Carmichael that left customer Myrna Opsahl dead of a shotgun wound. Her arrest came after year of living as a fugitive in Minnesota.

Olson pleaded guilty to the attempted bombing and the robbery in separate hearings. At the time, she and her attorneys were under the impression they would result in a total sentence of about five years. Instead, Olson was sentenced to six years for the robbery and 14 years for the attempted bombing, to be served concurrently.

The state Board of Prison Terms cited the potential for great violence and harm, the sophistication of the plot, and Olson's subsequent flight in recommending the stiffer sentence.

That sentence was vacated when Sacramento Superior Court Judge Thomas Cecil ruled officials never adequately explained the need for the longer prison term.

Despite the government's attempt to paint Sara as a violent character, Sarah lived close to 25 years without engaging in revolutionary activity.

The government is more interested in using Sarah as an example and warning for present political activists.

Italian Activist Threatened With Extradition

by *Mauvais Genres*

Since 1981, 150 former Italian Activists have been legally residing in France. Some of them are now being unfairly threatened with extradition to Italy where they would immediately be sent to prison. Sign a petition to let them reside in France!

Around 150 former Italian activists, condemned in Italy for actions linked with the political and social upheaval of the 1970s, have emigrated to France. Since 1981, they have been legally residing there on the promise made by the former French President Francois Mitterrand. He promised that they would always have safe refuge there so long as they renounced their past political activities, did not go underground, and did not involve themselves in politics. Some of them are now being unfairly threatened with extradition to Italy where they would immediately be sent to prison.

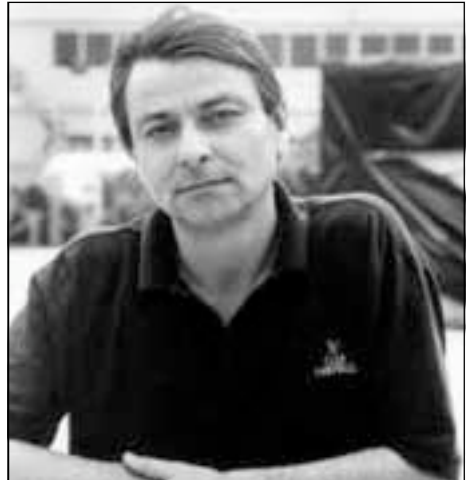
Cesare Battisti, the author of several detective novels, was such an activist and is now facing deportation. On Tuesday, February 10, 2004, he was arrested in Paris and detained to await hearing for his extradition to Italy. His counsel immediately appealed for his release. On March 3rd, the court granted a conditional release until his hearing scheduled for May 12, 2004. Since his arrest, he must report to the police

weekly and cannot leave Paris nor even enter any airport. In July, the French courts approved the extradition for Battisti.

Battisti's counsel and we are shocked by this situation. He has already been subjected to this same procedure in 1982. The court then decided that the Italian request of extradition would contradict Mitterrand's promise, and Battisti was ultimately allowed to remain in France.

The Italian government has no new evidence against Battisti, so that he has to face a new hearing is both excessive and absurd. This is because France has a law that states that no one shall be tried twice for the same crime without new evidence.

The French government's decision to allow former Italian activists to reside in France was made in response to emergency legislations adopted by Italy in the 1970s. The crimes committed at this time within the frame of what was considered a "rebellion against the state" were treated under special laws that prescribed heavier sentences for certain crimes. Moreover, the "Repentant Act" reduced sentences for those who would testify against others. One can imagine the reliability of such testimonies. This was further enhanced by a "Dissociation Act" which made possible for the accused to plead guilty based not



upon evidence, but upon repentants' testimonies. Under the Italian judiciary system, the guilt of the accused must be established by prosecutors in front of the court.

In Cesare's situation, the Italian government convicted him in his absence with only repentant's testimonies. He is accused to be involved in four murders, two of which were committed within hours of each other, but in two cities miles apart! Battisti's case would set a precedent in betraying Mitterrand's promise making all 150 vulnerable to these same procedures.

Battisti's backers, who mainly sympathize with his class-struggle vision of politics and believe Mitterrand's promise must be kept, will get little joy from a conservative French government that, in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks, is determined to show its commitment to fighting terror in all its forms.

The court found that Battisti should be extradited because he had been formally convicted of murder in 1993 and had forfeited his right to a retrial by refusing to attend that trial.

It also ruled the independent French justice system "cannot be bound by political promises made by the French government 20 years ago".

Italy wants Battisti punished. The writer is a former member of a terror cell called Armed Proletarians for Communism - one

of many violent ultra-left groups including the infamous Red Brigades whose bombings, kidnappings and killings rocked Italy in the 1970s and 80s.

He now faces life imprisonment after a Milan court convicted him in his absence in March 1993 of murdering a prison guard in Udine in 1978, a policeman in Milan in April 1979, and a neo-fascist militant in Mestre in February 1979.

The same court also found him guilty of complicity in the murder, also in February 1979, of a jeweller whose son was left paralyzed by the attack.

The Italian justice minister, Roberto Castelli, welcomed the extradition decision yesterday but said the former terrorist would almost certainly appeal. "This is a great victory for the Italian government because the French justice system has said

we were right," Mr Castelli said. "The affair is certainly not yet over ... but it is a strong signal to all delinquents and all terrorists."

We remain mobilized to prevent the extradition of the Italian refugees who were guaranteed resident status in France. We demand France deny extradition requests by the Italian government and provide forever the security they assured them.

We encourage you to join over 23,000 others in signing our petition at <http://www.mauvaisgenres.com/peti/index.php>

The first box asks for your first and last name, the second for your e-mail address.

The third for your city and country, and the fourth for your occupation

Heavy prison sentences in Italy

On April 20th, 2004, the third and final degree of the Marini trial ended by confirming the sentences of the accused anarchists. Besides those already in prison, Angela Maria (Marina) Lo Vecchio, Alfredo Bonanno, Orlando Campo, and Carlo Tesserì have now been arrested and are in various jails across Italy. against 50 anarchists

The trial has gone on for years, and was part of an attempted frame-up by prosecutor Marini. The charges were belonging to an armed band, subversive organization, robberies, and other crimes considered linked to terroristic aims. The anarchists were accused of belonging to a fictional armed anarchist organization, but almost all were acquitted of "subversive association", and 13 were sentenced for "common crimes."

Alfredo Bonanno is imprisoned in Trieste. Angela Maria Lo Vecchio and Orlando Campo are in the Rebibbia prison in Rome. Carlo Tesserì is in the Dozza jail in Bologna.

Rose Ann Scrocco and Gregorian Garagin were both condemned to 30 years in prison, and Francesco Porcu was given a life sentence and 18 months of daily isolation. Fortunately, Rose is still a fugitive.

Link: <http://www.guerrasociale.org>

Related at

Infoshop: <http://www.infoshop.org/news5/marini.html>

from: Thessaloniki Indymedia:

http://thessaloniki.indymedia.org/front.php3?lang=el&article_id=18463

The Case of Attorney Lynne Stewart

Lynne Stewart is presently on trial for representing her client, Sheik Abdel-Rahman, a radical cleric who was accused of the first WTC plot. She has had a history of representing clients in highly political cases including members of Weather Underground, United Freedom Front, and Black Liberation Army trials. Stewarts case may now put into question as to whether defendants in highly political cases will receive proper legal representation from their attorneys.

On the morning of April 9, 2002 agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrived in the front yard of the Brooklyn home of outspoken attorney, Lynne Stewart to arrest her. Simultaneously, as they handcuffed her, the FBI invaded her Manhattan office and searched for almost 12 hours. Photographs of them leaving with boxes of papers and files were widespread in the media. U.S. Attorney John Ashcroft himself flew to New York, for the announcement of Lynne's arrest both at a Federal court news conference and later that day, with much greater coverage, on the Late Night with David Letterman television show.

The indictment against Lynne charges her with providing material support for terrorism, and violating Special

Administrative Measures (SAMS) imposed by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, which included a gag order on Sheik Abdel-Rahman, who Lynne represented in his 1995 trial. The indictment came a full two years after the last alleged act. The basis? A public press release; overheard, privileged attorney-client interviews and wire-tapped conversations with the interpreter and paralegal on the case who are also charged in this indictment.

Lynne pleads: "Emphatically Not Guilty"

Lynne Stewart has been a defense attorney practicing criminal law for 27 years. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Lynne was teacher in the New York City School system as a children's librarian. Lynne is the mother of 3, stepmom to four and the

grandmother of 7. Lynne, as a lawyer, has always been a vigorous defender of her clients, who ranged from the many poor people caught in the criminal justice system by the economics and/or the war on drugs to more well known political defendants. These include: David Gilbert, Weather Underground, Richard Williams of the United Freedom Front, Larry Davis, acquitted by reason of self defense of attempted murder of NYPO's, Sekou Odinga, Black Liberation Army and Nasser Ahmed, released after being imprisoned for 3 1/2 years on non-existent secret evidence. Lynne remains committed to her clients, as their attorney, until they are no longer in the grasp of the State. This is the work of a criminal defense attorney.

Prior to September 11th and the hastily



enacted "Patriot Act", Lynne Stewart would never have been indicted at all.

The charges against Lynne Stewart come at a time when the Bush Administration/Ashcroft Justice Department are using the September 11th attack as a vehicle to mask their attack on the civil liberties of all Americans, and the rights under international law of many people of the world. Through the "Patriot Act" which was forced to Congress in the late weeks of September, 2001 and passed into law in an atmosphere of trauma and fear - this administration has been able to demand and be granted broad new powers. The Bush agenda had been on shaky ground after the controversial "election" and consequent Supreme Court "appointment" of Bush and his minions to the presidency. After September 11th the opportunity arose for Bush/Cheney/Ashcroft to push the country even further to the right and to move to create a police state. The Patriot Act implements a number of domestic "antiterrorism" measures that enhance government surveillance powers to enable the FBI and other law enforcers to intrude upon the privacy of anyone and everyone in the United States. Under the guise of making us feel "safe", the Act sacrifices values that are at the core of democracy and thus at the core of our Constitution. The Act fosters detention and deportation of noncitizens based on their political activities and associations. When the Bush administration lacks authorization from Congress it may self-authorize by executive fiat, interim rules and directives all done in secrecy. By a signature of Ashcroft, the administration may monitor privileged communications between federal detainees and their attorneys completely bypassing Judicial scrutiny. This thwarts the ability of criminal defendants to receive the effective assistance of counsel to which they are entitled under the Sixth Amendment. Under these same interim rules and directives there are new guidelines for domestic intelligence gathering that repeal the hard-fought-for reforms of the Church Committee's 1976 findings that the FBI and the CIA had engaged in domestic spying and disruption of lawful political activities (Cointelpro). This and other manipulations of Bush et.al. have set back established Constitutional and human rights. This could only have happened behind the cloak of fear engendered by 9/11.

"I am here not because the Government wanted to put me in jail for 40 years but because I have fought for Justice in the United States for 40 years."

The apparent goals of the Bush administration through their "Patriot Act" is to stifle dissent and dissuade all who struggle for freedom and self-determination. One of the rights under attack is the right to counsel. The many detainees, who have been held nameless in a makeshift prison at

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba under unspeakable conditions of confinement, are labeled "unlawful combatants". They are not allowed attorneys. After 9/11 imprisoned American Political Prisoners and Muslims were put in administrative detention. Many are still being so held for unexplained "security" reasons. The imprisonment and denial of counsel to two U.S. citizens portrayed as somehow connected to Afghanistan shows that clearly this administration believes that attorneys are part of the problem and that those whose responsibility it is to advocate for the rights of the accused and imprisoned need to be controlled and intimidated.

"This case is about Lynne Stewart, her struggle and her freedom."

Why target Lynne Stewart?

By targeting and indicting Lynne Stewart the U.S. Justice Department hopes to make an example of an attorney with a long history of progressive political beliefs as well as a reputation for vigorously advocating on behalf of those whose lives have been entrusted to her. Her arrest is meant as a signal to the defense bar to cease and desist zealous representation of persons criminalized by the Government.

It is to chill the defense bar and force their conformance to the government's tune. Lynne Stewart is represented by Attorney Michael Tigar, who has represented among others: the Chicago Eight, The Seattle Eight, H. Rap Brown, Angela Davis, Cesar Chavez's son Fernando, and Kiko Martinez. He had worked with the African National Congress in the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa. He is a law professor at Washington College of Law, American University in D.C. where he also teaches a seminar on human rights law.

On his defense of Lynne Stewart Michael Tigar says:

"This case is about Lynne Stewart, her struggle and her freedom. For me this case represents an opportunity to confront the Bush/Cheney/Ashcroft effort to destroy human rights and scare the country into lurching to the right

This case is an attack on a gallant, charismatic and effective fighter for justice. I am heartened by the support of so many lawyers, but disappointed in the failure of some to see that the case affected them and their lives. The entire legal profession ought to be standing up and shouting about this case....It is clear that this case has at least three fundamental faults:

First, it is an attack on the first amendment right of free speech, free press and petition. When you read this indictment, (see www.lynnestewart.org) you will see that Lynne Stewart is being attacked for speaking and helping others to speak. Already, the law under which she is being prosecuted has been held unconstitutional on this very ground by a judge in California.

Second, this case is an attack on the right to effective assistance of counsel. The indictment, announced in a blaze of publicity by General Ashcroft himself, seeks to chill the defense bar. The government's theory would sharply limit the rights of lawyers to practice their profession and to represent their clients.

Third, the "evidence" in this case was gathered by wholesale invasion of private conversations, private attorney-client meetings, and private faxes, letters and e-mails. I have never seen such an abusive use of governmental power."

"The government's indictment of me is really an attack on the people"

The initial outpouring and continuing growth of public support for Lynne Stewart is reflective of the nerve struck by this attack on not only Lynne and her life's work but on all the defenders of our rights under the Constitution.

Those who cherish freedom and justice have no choice but to fight this attack against Lynne and against all of us. We must defend Lynne Stewart against government attack.

WE WON'T ALLOW THEM TO BURY LYNNE STEWART IN THEIR PRISONS.

JUSTICE FOR LYNNE STEWART IS JUSTICE FOR US ALL

**Lynne Stewart Defense Committee
351 Broadway, Third Floor
New York, NY 10013
212-679-6018 extension # 21**



Denial of Mandatory Release for Veronza Bowers

After going through all of the legal channels to secure his release, including two law suits against the U.S. Parole Commission, Veronza's only hope for freedom rested on his right to Mandatory Release under federal law. April 7, 2004 had been set many years ago as the date for his release from prison. With all administrative processes and paperwork completed, a new room at his sister's home on the East Coast approved and freshly painted, Veronza was all set to begin his new life outside of prison walls. His daughter, three sisters, friends and supporters flew from all over the country to welcome him into their loving arms as he emerged through the gates of the federal penitentiary.

But this was not to be.

Less than 18 hours before his eagerly anticipated release, prison authorities at the Coleman Correctional Center received a telephone call from the National Parole Commission in Washington, D.C. inform-

ing them that the waiver of a final parole hearing, which they previously granted, had been rescinded and that Veronza would not be released as promised. Everyone, including the Warden at Coleman, Veronza's Case Manager and Counselor at the prison, were shocked by this sudden and unanticipated turn of events. All efforts by authorities at Coleman to intervene on Veronza's behalf were shot down by the USPC. Soon after giving away all his possessions in emotional farewells to friends, Veronza was granted a brief visit with his family then locked back up in his cell.

On May 2nd, Veronza met with attorney Gilda Sherrod-Ali of Washington, D.C. and presented her with the draft of an Emergency Petition For Writ of Habeas Corpus, along with a with a motion requesting immediate release on bond. These legal challenges to his unlawful detention have now been filed in the U.S. District Court in Ocala, Florida. We await

the court's ruling.

While support for Veronza has existed for many years, little was done to publicize his plight beyond the boundaries of an of an interested few. Our main effort was to find remedy through the slow, but established legal channels. The events surrounding April 7th have made it very clear that the only hope for justice in this case lies not with the government and administration of this country, but in a direct appeal to the American people and those who are willing to stand up for human rights all over the world.

For more information please check out the site: www.veronza.org

Write to Veronza at:

Veronza Bowers, Jr., #35316-136
FCC, Medium C-1,
P.O. Box 1032,
Coleman, FL 33521-1032

Jaan Laaman In Trouble

August 13, 2004

Friends, family, and supporters call on all to take action to oppose recent repression of political prisoner Jaan Laaman. Jaan is currently being held on the segregation unit of MCI-Cedar Junction. In addition to this, he has had no phone access for two weeks. Jaan is being held in segregation on an "Awaiting Action Pending Investigation (AAPI)." No formal charges have been filed against him. With an AAPI, prisoners can be held on the segregation unit indefinitely, without any charges.

On July 30th, Jaan was moved from his cell and told there is an investigation regarding his alleged connection to a planned demonstration at the prison. The next day, activists with the DNC2RNC caravan held their protest, which included reading Jaan's statement on prisons, repression and civil liberties. Luckily, Jaan happened to be in the only section of the prison where it was possible to hear the demonstration. He was inspired and excited to hear the sounds of protest after so long. Jaan was later interrogated by IPS, the prison's internal police. Agents questioned him about the demonstration, and about the statement. He was held incommunicado for a week, during which time his phone and letter access was denied and all of his property was confiscated. Jaan is still without phone calls, though his property was returned on Friday, August 6th.

Jaan Karl Laaman is an anti-imperialist

political prisoner. An immigrant from Estonia, he learned about racism and poverty firsthand, growing up in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston.

Jaan is serving 98 years of consecutive sentences in prison for his activities with the United Freedom Front, a clandestine anti-imperialist group that conducted several bombings and bank expropriations in solidarity with peoples' struggles in South Africa and El Salvador. In 2000, Jaan was transferred to MCI-Cedar Junction in Walpole, Massachusetts. Before going underground, Jaan was active in his community around issues of racism, community security and solidarity against apartheid in South Africa. You can read more about Jaan at www.montrealbfcf.org/laaman,

and read some of his writings at www.4struggle.org.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Jaan urges you to write and call to inquire about his status and the reason he is being held in segregation, without phone access. Make it clear that we are aware of the Department of Correction's maneuvers against Jaan, and demand that he be returned to general population and given phone access. Jaan has already written - now it's your turn!

Please, contact: David Nolan,
Superintendent
P.O. Box 100
South Walpole, MA 02071
Phone: (508) 660-8000

Prison is a microcosm of the larger society. The same racism, repression and economic exploitation that they use on one side of the wall are intensified on the inside. Repression is nothing new, but the U.S. is ever-tightening its grip on movements for liberation. Jaan's current situation should be seen within the context of continuous attacks against revolutionaries, immigrants, and all oppressed peoples. The government locks up and harasses revolutionaries for the same reason that Immigration and Customs Enforcement conducts mass detentions of immigrants with no pretext beyond their ethnicity, nationality, or religion: to exercise political and social control. The very same corrections officers who tortured captives in the U.S. prison system are now committing these same acts on prisoners in Iraq. We have to send a clear message to the U.S. Empire that we are well aware of their oppressive methods, and we will continue to fight!



Former Panther Arrested in Canada

Former Black Panther Joseph Pannell has been captured after spending over thirty years underground. Pannell, now 55, was a member of the Chicago Black Panther Party and was forced to go underground after he was accused of March 7, 1969 shooting of a Chicago police officer.

Pannell was charged with the attempted murder of the police officer, as well as, three counts of aggravated battery. He was freed on bail but arrested again the next year for jumping his bail. He was freed again after posting a \$10,000 bond. In 1974, he skipped the country when a warrant was issued for his arrest after he skipped a court date. Pannell was not heard from again until his recent arrest.

In the few weeks prior to his arrest, Canadian authorities were contacted by the FBI and were asked to check if fingerprints taken from Pannell in 1969 matched those in Canadian records taken from a man named Douglas Gary Freeman in 1983 for a "customs offense." The fingerprints matched. Investigators then traced Pannell, to his workplace, at the Toronto Public Library. Police claim Pannell had been

working at the Toronto reference library for the past 13 years under the alias Douglas Gary Freeman.

The Canadian authorities arrested Pannell while leaving his work and charged him with being in Canada illegally but the next day was arrested again on the extradition warrant. The immigration matters will be on hold pending the outcome of the extradition hearing.

A lawyer of Joseph Pannell stated he is innocent of the shooting of the Chicago police officer and will fight his extradition from Toronto to the U.S. The process could take "weeks or years." Should the courts order that he be sent back to the U.S., Mr. Pannell can appeal to the federal Minister of Justice. That decision could then be appealed to the courts.

Another member of Pannell's defense team said, despite a potentially long extradition battle, he has little doubt his client will end up being shipped back to Chicago -- and that his trial is sure to evoke the politically charged climate that prevailed in that city in the late 1960s.

During the period of the shooting, a war

was being waged between radicals and the police. Months before the Knox shooting, the 1968 Democratic Convention brought with it street battles between radicals and cops. Eight months after the shooting, police murdered the leader of the Chicago Black Panther Party, Fred Hampton, while he was asleep in his bed.

Pannell lived in Quebec for more than 18 years, before moving to Toronto in April of 1987. His son, Mace, won a football scholarship at the University of Toledo and



Pannell while a member of BPP

FREQUENTLY USED

Acronyms/ Terms

ABCF: Anarchist Black Cross Federation, federation of ABC groups who support and defend PP/POW's.

ABC-BG: Branch Group, ABCF group with more responsibilities than a SG.

ABC-SG: Support Group, ABCF group with less responsibilities than a BG.

AIM: American Indian Movement, above ground revolutionary organization of Native Americans.

Anarchism: Free or libertarian socialism. Anarchists are opposed to government, the state, and capitalism. Therefore, simply speaking, anarchism is a no government form of socialism. Types of anarchists include: Anarcho-Communist, Anarcho-Syndicalist, Autonomist, Collectivist, Individualists, and Mutualists.

BLA: Black Liberation Army, revolutionary Black clandestine formation formed to defend the Black community and defend the BPP, dormant since the '80s.

BPP: Black Panther Party, above ground Black revolutionary group seeking Black political power, disbanded in the mid-'70s.

FALN: English translation- Armed Forces of National Liberation, revolutionary clandestine group fighting for Puerto Rican independence.

FC: Federation Council, decision making body of the ABCF.

MOVE: Not an acronym, the name of an organization based in Philadelphia who are committed to the teachings of John Africa. Their belief is in "life."

PC: Prisoner's Committee, rotating body of 5 PP/POW's on the ABCF's FC.

PP/POW's: Political Prisoners and/or Prisoners of War.

(See page 1.)

Self Defense: The legal act of protecting one's life or the life of another with the idea/purpose of self determination and independence. Armed self defense is relative to the ABCF, specifically in the U.S., in that as the organization grows, so too grows the need to protect ourselves from the armed aggressor of the state, right wing, and other ideological opponents. (Firearms training as preparation for self defense are legal activities within the confines of America.)

Self Determination: The right by virtue of which all people's are entitled freely to determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social, and cultural development. All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic cooperation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

SDS: Students for a Democratic Society, left student group founded in the '60s.

The Update: This is a bimonthly publication of the ABCF.

WUO: Weather Underground Organization, first the Weathermen, later known as the WUO, evolved out of the SDS as a underground formation of primarily anti-imperialist revolutionaries from the student movement.

(The ABCF produces the Revolutionary Political Dictionary with these and other expanded definitions of political terms. Available from Jacksonville ABC for \$1 and two 34 cents stamps.)

became a wide receiver in the Canadian Football League from 1999 to 2002. His daughter Tempie recently was a star center fielder for her softball team at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y. With the exception of the 1983 customs offense and the recent arrests, Pannell seemed to be living a normal and peaceful life.

Pannell is just one of many 60's radicals

who have captured because of their alleged activities during the turbulent era. The Bush administration seems to be using these arrests as a warning to present day radicals to be aware that today actions could have nasty results years, even decades, later.

The Canadian government has stated it will oppose any attempt for bail since the

U.S. government considers Pannell a flight risk. In its official request to Canada for his arrest, U.S. officials state that Pannell has a "history of flight" and presents a "danger to his community and to any law enforcement agent with whom he may come into contact."



The Anarchist PP/POW Subsistence Program

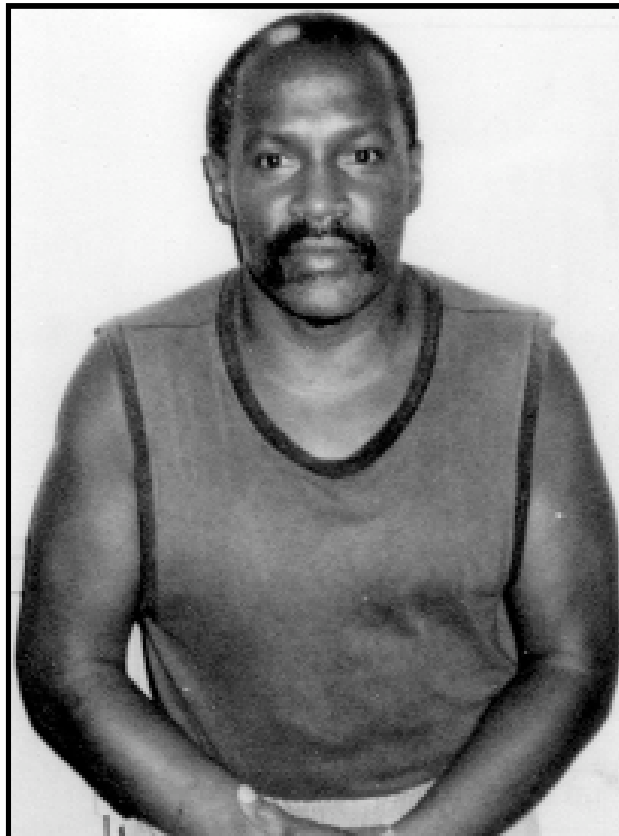
The Anarchist Subsistence Program, in contrast to the Warchest program that provides nonpartisan support for revolutionary Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War, seeks to provide material aid to those PP/POW's who come from our own anarchist/antiauthoritarian community.

Presently, we are aware of less than ten 'Class War' PP/POW's in North America who identify themselves as part of the anarchist or anti-authoritarian community. From information provided to us by these political prisoners, we realize that Ojore Lutalo is in more financial need than most. Because of this and because Ojore has provided an immeasurable amount of time, guidance and focus to the collectives that make up the ABCF, the organization has made Ojore the focus of our first subsistence support campaign.

The two functions of this support

campaign include a monthly check and forty .34 cent postage stamps per month. Supporters of the Anarchist Subsistence Program send whatever funds they can to Philadelphia ABC (who facilitates the program) who in turn sends the total amount from all supporters to Ojore monthly. All U.S. supporters also take turns sending the stamps directly to Philadelphia ABC.

Listed here are the monthly check documentation and rotation of groups sending stamps. If you want to support this important program, and help us expand the number of Anarchist Subsistence Program campaigns we run, contact Philadelphia ABC. Make checks or money orders out only to TIM FASNACHT. Funds should be sent in the last week of the month before the month the funds will be used (i.e.; send March funds in the 3rd week of February)



Stamp Rotation Schedule

October
Northeast
November
Cleveland
December
Los Angeles

Send a check or money order to Philadelphia ABCF made out to Tim Fasnacht for forty 34 cents stamps in the last week of the month before the month you are responsible for.

	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O
Jax	20	60	60	60	60	105	120						20	20	20	20	
NE						100	113		20			10	10	10	10	10	
NJ	40	120	120	65	25												
Lanc	40	145	145	200	115												
Bing/CO	10	110	105	75	70												
Kent		88	203	205	223												
Winn	40	85	110	130	144	100	110		10								
LA				50	96	66			10	10				15	15	15	
Cleve				120	205	90.4							5.2		10		
Houston			40	5													
Brick, NJ			35														
Moncton	5	60	25	5													
Aaron				5													
Josh S.																	
Mntrl.							50							25			
Kete Foy							5										
other	5																
Total	160	773	788	810	1028	581	488	0	40	10	0	10	35	60	55	45	

All Inquires to:
Philadelphia ABCF
c/o 447 S. 43RD ST
Philadelphia, PA 19104



Neil (Jax-ABCF) PP/POW supporter, and Carmen



Carmen speaking at a fundraiser for PP/POW's



Neil (Jax-ABCF) and Carmen Valentin



Guitar players at a fundraiser for PR POW's



Jan Susler, lawyer for Puerto Rican POW's



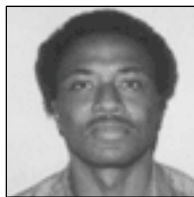
Guitar players at a fundraiser for PR POW's



Sekou Odinga
05228-054 / Box 1000
Marion, IL 62959
Receives \$60 per month



Ruchell Cinque Magee #
A92051 / 3B-05-103
Box 3466
Corcoran, CA 93212
Receives \$60 per month



Herman Bell
79C0262 / Box 2001
Dannamora, NY 12929
Receives \$60 per month



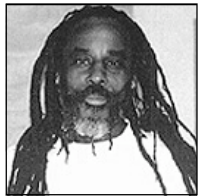
Free!
Ricardo Jimenez
88967-024
PO Box 1000 A-2
Lewisburg PA 17837
Receives \$60 per month



Richard Williams
10377-016
3901 Klein Blvd.
Lompoc, CA 93436
Receives \$60 per month



Free!
Dylcia Pagan
88971-024
5701 8th St., Camp Parks
Dublin CA 94568
Receives \$60 per month



Hanif Shabazz Bey
295933 / Box 759
Wallensridge Supermax
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219
\$60 every other month



Free!
W.J. "Wolverine" Ignace
RRAC Matsqui / Box 400
Abtsfrd., BC
V2S 5X8 Canada
\$30 every 3rd month



Free!
James OJ Pitawanakwat
Mission Inst. / Box 60
Mission BC V2V 4L8
Canada
\$30 every 3rd month



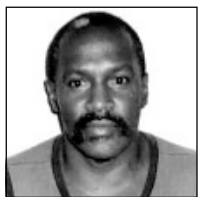
Russel Maroon Shoats
AF-3855
175 Progress Dr.
Waynesburg, PA 15370
Receives \$60 per month



Sekou Kambui
113058 / Box 56 SCC
(B1-21)
Elmore, AL 36025-0056
Receives \$60 per month



Joseph Bowen
AM-4272/ 1 Kelley Drive
Coal Township, Pa
17866-1021
Receives \$30 per month



Ojore Lutalo
59860 / PO 861
SBI# 0000901548
Trenton, NJ 08625
Received Emergency Funds



Jalil Muntaqim
(Bottom) 77A4283
Box 618 135 State St.
Auburn, NY 13024
Received Emergency Funds



Sundiata Acoli (Squire)
39794-066 / Box 3000
White Deer, PA 17887
USP Allenwood
Received Emergency Funds



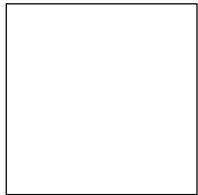
Free!
Carmen Valentin
88973-024
5701 - 8th. St. Camp Parks
Dublin CA 94568
Received Emergency Funds



Jaan Laaman
W41514 / Box 100
South Walpole, MA 02071
Received Emergency Funds



Thomas Manning
10373-016 / Box 1000
USP Leavenworth, Pa
Leavenworth, KS 66048
Received Emergency Funds



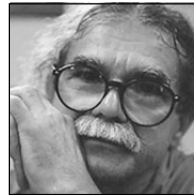
Yu Kikumura
09008-050 / Box 8500 ADX
Florence, CO
81226-8500
Received Emergency Funds



Free!
Edwin Cortes
92153-024nBox 1000
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Received Emergency Funds



Free!
Adolfo Matos
88968-024
3701 Klein Blvd
Lompoc, CA 93436
Received Emergency Funds



Oscar Lopez Rivera
87651-024 / Box 33
Terre Haute, IN 47808
Received Emergency Funds



Free!
Jihad Abdul Mumit
323749-138
Box 1000
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Received Emergency Funds

The ABCF has initiated a program designed to send monthly checks into those PP/POW's who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment. PP/POW's requesting funds complete an application of financial questions. When the ABCF has collected sufficient funds to send out another monthly check, the application are reviewed by a rotating body of PP/POW's called the Prisoner Committee, who makes a judgement on which applicant is in the most financial need. There is also an emergency fund designed to immediately send checks to those PP/POW's in need of one time or emergency assistance. Founded in 1994, the Warchest has provided consistent and reliable financial aid, serving a much neglected comradley function. As Sekou Odinga (a POW currently receiving a monthly check) writes, **"Thanks much for the support you've been organizing, I really appreciate it. After not having any or very little support for so long, it now seems like (people) have all of a sudden realized that I am live."** Endorse this program by giving any monthly or one time donation to increase the number of prisoners being supported monthly. A financial report is published that documents all money received and the prisoner it was sent to. The prisoners addresses are also printed so that endorsers may write and hold us accountable.

Names: _____ Ph: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

ONE TIME DONATION ☐ MONTHLY SUPPORTER ☐

Monthly supporters, please check one of the following:

I'll commit to 6 months ☐ I'll commit to 1 year ☐ Amount: \$ _____

Send cash, checks or mos
made to **NEIL BATELLI** to:
JAX ABCF
PO Box 350392
Jax, FL 32235-0392
jaxabcf@se.mediaone.net
toll free (877)-673-2658

What is the Warchest?

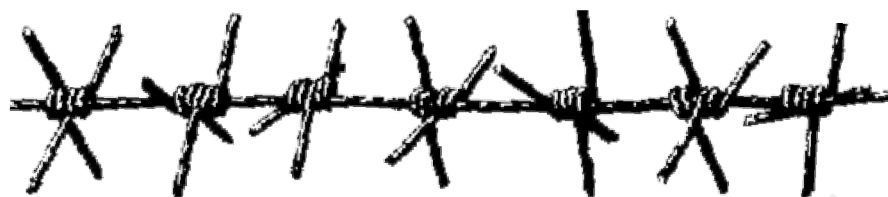
The ABCF has initiated a program designed to send monthly checks to those Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment. PP/POW's requesting funds complete an application of financial questions. When the ABCF has collected sufficient funds to send out another monthly check, the applications are reviewed by a rotating body of PP/POW's called the Prisoners Committee, who makes a judgement on which applicant is in the most financial need. There is also an Emergency Fund designed to immediately send checks to those PP/POW's in need of one time or emergency assistance. Founded in 1994, the Warchest has provided consistent and reliable financial aid serving a much neglected comradely function. As Sekou Odinga (a POW currently receiving a monthly check) writes, **"Thanks much for the support you've been organizing, I really appreciate it. After not having any or very little support for so long, it now seems like (people) have all of a sudden realized that I am alive."** Endorse this program by giving any monthly or one time donation to increase the number of prisoners being supported monthly. Below is the financial report which documents all money received and the prisoners it was sent to.

We regret to inform you that the Warchest report has not been updated as this issue is going to print. We apologise for this inconvenience and ask that all inquiries about the warchest, it's status, and it's current financial output be sent to:

**Neil Batelli
Jacksonville ABC-BG
P.O. Box 35092
Jacksonville, FL 32235-0392**



SUPPORT THE WARCHEST



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

- ☐ One time donation
☐ monthly supporter

If you'll be a monthly supporter, please check one of the following:

- ☐ I'll commit to 6 months
☐ I'll commit to 1 year

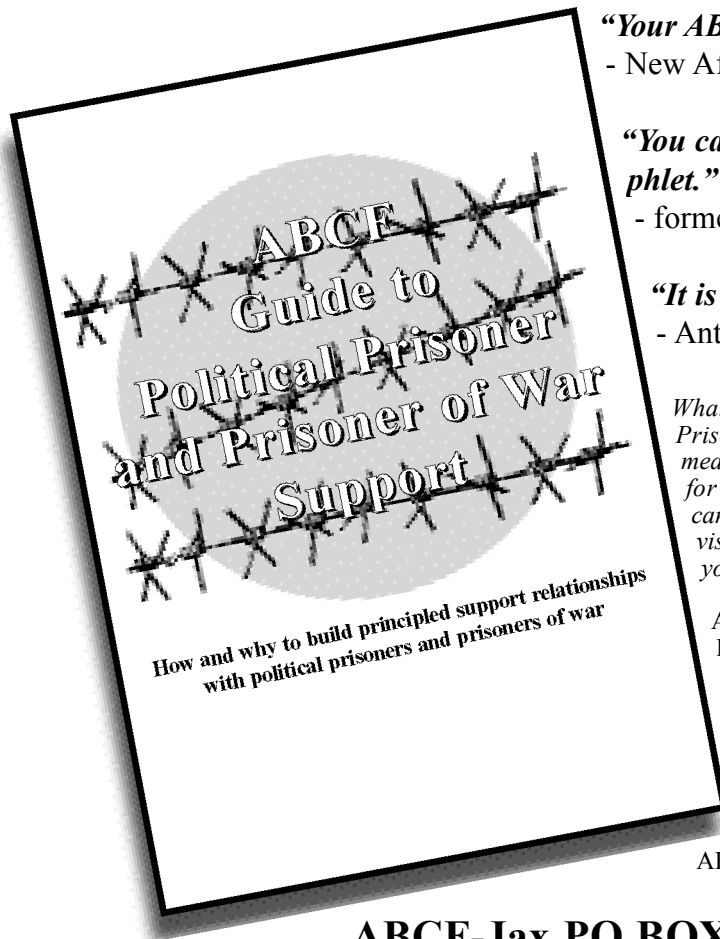
Amount \$ _____

Send concealed cash, checks, or m.o.s. made out to NEIL BATELLI to:

**JACKSONVILLE
ABC-BG**

PO Box 350392
Jacksonville, FL
32235-0392

or donate online at
www.abcf.net



“Your ABCF Guide to PP/POW Support is great, PERIOD!”

- New Afrikan POW Sundiata Acoli

“You can see many of our concerns addressed in this pamphlet.”

- former Puerto Rican POW Carmen Valentin

“It is extremely well thought out and put together.”

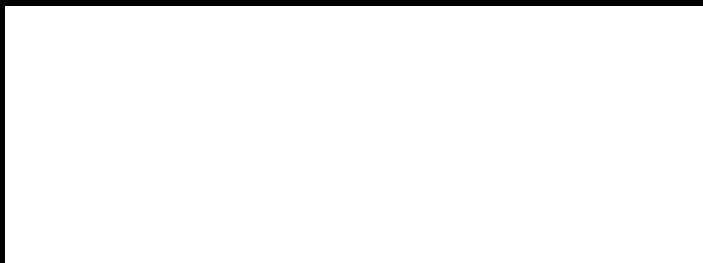
- Anti-Imperialist PP Tom Manning

What's the ABC? What's the ABCF? Who are Political Prisoners, Prisoners of War? Where are they? Why make a criteria? What do mean by 'documentation' and how do I get it? What kinds of support for Political Prisoners need? How should I go about my work? What can PP/POW's get in prison? What do I need to know if I wasn't to visit? Can I bring them food packages? What about clothes? What do you mean 'principled support'? How do I get involved?

A practical guide compiled with the help Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War themselves based on concrete history and work experience. It will help answer all of these questions and more. The ABCF guide to PP/POW definitions that were democratically agreed upon at an international tribunal, specific procedures for obtaining documentation on PP/POW's, information on visiting, phone contact, food/clothing packages, an updated list of U.S. PP/POW's and the working policies of the ABCF in our work to support PP/POW's, as well as a listing of all North American ABCF groups using them. Send \$1 and two stamps to:

ABCF-Jax PO BOX 350392 Jacksonville, FL 32235-0392

LA-ABCF
Branch Group
PO Box 11223
Whittier, CA 90603



“This work is not done for glory, but because we believe in mutual aid.”