

ABCF

UPDATE

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ABCF



\$2

Summer 2008 *"Any movement that does not support their political internees is a sham movement."* - O. Lutalo Issue #50



What is the Anarchist Black Cross Federation?

The Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) began shortly after the 1905 Russian Revolution. It formed after breaking from the Political Red Cross, due to the group's refusal to support Anarchist and Social Revolutionary Political Prisoners. The new group, naming itself the Anarchist Red Cross (ARC), began to provide aid to those Political Prisoners who were refused support by the PRC.

In the 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 Latvian Anarchist Red Cross, emerged to provide aid in other Eastern European countries. Armed with the ideas of *mutual aid* and *solidarity*, these groups worked tirelessly to

provide support to those who were suffering because of their political beliefs.

In 1919, the organization's name changed to the Anarchist Black Cross to avoid confusion with the International Red Cross. Through the 1920s and 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.

After 1936, the ABC expanded its aid to places such as 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 1970s only a handful of ABC chapters still existed.

In the 80s, however, the ABC began to gain popularity again in the US and Europe. For years, the ABC's name was kept alive by a number of completely autonomous groups scattered throughout the globe and supporting 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 and Prisoners of War.

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/POWs 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 (PP): 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/POWs in U.S. Prisons and Jails, Dec. '90]

Prisoner of War (POW): 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)

Running Down the Walls

5k Run/Walk/Bike for Political Prisoners

August 23rd, 2008

The LAABCF is organizing a 5k run to raise funds for PP/POWs and other local community groups. We are hoping to expand the run to other cities and prisons throughout North America. For those interested in organizing a run in your location or joining the run in LA, please contact LA ABCF at la@abcf.net. Please check out our site at: www.abcf.net/la.



The ABCF is:

Prisoner Committee

BILL DUNNE

#10916-086
Box 2068
Inez, KY 41224
USP Big Sandy

SEKOU KAMBUI

(W. TURK)
#113058 / Box 56
SCC (B1-21)
Elmore, AL 36025

OJORE LUTALO

#59860 / Box 861
Trenton, NJ 08625

JAAN LAAMAN

#W41414
BOX 100
South Walpole, MA
02071

MALIKI LATINE

#81-A-4469
Box 51
Comstock, NY
12821

Federation Chapters

JAX ABC

PO Box 350392
Jacksonville, FL 32235

NYC ABC

PO Box 110034
Brooklyn, NY 11211

LOS ANGELES ABC

PO Box 11223
Whittier, CA 90603

PHILLY ABC

PO Box 42129
Philadelphia, PA 19101

MONTREAL ABC

PO Box 42053
Succ. Jeanne Mance
Montreal QC
H2W 2T3 Canada

TORONTO ABC

PO Box 97048
RPO Roncescalles Ave
Toronto, Ontario
M6R 3B3 Canada

NJ ABC

No Current Address

'Lefty' Gilday Suffers Stroke

It has been reported by the Jericho Movement that 'Lefty' Gilday recently spent 13 days in the hospital after suffering a silent stroke on his left side. 'Lefty' was returned to the medical unit at MCI Shirley but is still in bad shape. He can not walk, and can barely get out of bed. Despite his current condition, the prognosis for recovery is good.

Please write to 'Lefty' and give him your support:

William 'Lefty' Gilday (W33537)
P.O. Box 1218
Shirley, MA 01464

Spokane Anarchist Pleads

A Spokane Anarchist, Travis Riehl, has pled guilty in March to a felony county of destruction of government property. He was placed on three year probation and ordered to pay \$4,867 in restitution.

The 24-year old from the Spokane Lack of Action Collective and Alternative Solutions and Possibilities, was accused of two separate actions. Riehl was accused of throwing rocks through windows of a army recruiting station and a Washington Air National Guard office in Spokane. He allegedly spray painted a window with an anarchy symbol and the phrase, "Leave Us Alone." The damages exceeded \$1,000.

A conviction for destruction of government property carries a penalty of not more than 10-years imprisonment, up to a \$250,000 fine and up to 3-year term of court supervision after release.

Riehl targeted the offices because of his opposition to the U.S. occupational wars in the Middle East. He was indicted by a grand jury for the actions in August 2007. Yep, grand jury for broken windows!

Chubbuck Transferred

In March, Byron Shane Chubbuck was transferred to USP Coleman in Florida. Chubbuck, an indigenous political prisoner, is imprisoned for numerous bank expropriations aimed at funding the Zapatista movement in Mexico. After his original arrest, Chubbuck liberated himself and continued to engage in additional actions to raise funds for the Zapatista movement.

There was serious concern regarding Chubbuck's safety when it was reported that his enemies had passed the word of his transfer to USP Coleman. However Chubbuck has stated that he is safe.

Write to Chubbuck:

Byron Shane Chubbuck #07909-051
P.O. Box 1033
Coleman, FL 33521

Marilyn Buck Has Surgery

Friends of Marilyn Buck have reported that Marilyn has had knee replacement surgery and is doing well. Physical recovery is extremely difficult in the prison setting and Marilyn is in a lot of pain.

Please let Marilyn know she is in your thoughts:

Marilyn Buck #00482-285
Unit CD, Camp Parks
5701 Eighth Street
Dublin, CA 94568

Sundiata Acoli Transferred

New Afrikan and BLA Prisoner of War Sundiata Acoli has been transferred. His new address is the following:

Sundiata Acoli (Clark Squire)
#39794-066
FCI Otisville
P.O. Box 1000
Otisville, NY 10963

Jose Perez Gonzalez Free

On January 18, Vieques political prisoner, Jose Perez Gonzalez finished his sentence and is now free. Jose still needs support. He is facing a \$10,000 fine to be paid to the US government for his involvement in resisting US occupation of Puerto Rico. Please send any available funds to help him out. Funds should be sent to:

IFCO/ProLibertad
418 W 145th St.
New York, NY 10031

Please endorse the check or money orders to: IFCO/ProLibertad and write "Jose Perez Gonzalez Freedom Fund" in memo section.

Alberto Torres Transferred

Puerto Rican Political Prisoner Carlos Alberto Torres was transferred to the Federal Correctional Institution at Pekin, Illinois, approximately 2 hours away from Chicago. Please note his new address:

Carlos Alberto Torres #88976-024
FCI Pekin
Federal Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 5000
Pekin, IL 61555

López Rivera Transferred

After 27 years in maximum and super-maximum security prisons, on February 13, 2008, Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera was moved to a medium security prison. This is a result of his excellent record in prison, but it is also due to the tremendous vigilance and defense of his rights by the organizations involved in the campaign for his and Carlos Alberto Torres release. While he is still being sin-

gled out for special, more onerous treatment, including being required to report to prison staff every two hours, this is the first time in almost three decades that he is in a medium security prison. Buoyed by the warm send-off from his fellow prisoners at the USP (maximum), and by the warm welcome from those at the FCI (medium), he will adjust to his new surroundings. The National Boricua Human Rights Network celebrates his transfer as a victory and urges all to write to Oscar. More news about the transfer to follow.

His new postal mailing address:

Oscar López Rivera #87651-024
FCI Terre Haute
P.O. Box 33
Terre Haute, IN 47808

Luis Medina Transferred

Cuban Five Political Prisoner Luis Medina has been transferred to USP McCreary in Kentucky. Please note his new address:

Luis Medina #58734-004
P.O. Box 3000
Pine Knot, KY 42635
USP McCreary

Veronza Bowers Transferred

Former Black Panther political prisoner Veronza Bowers Jr. has been transferred to USP Atlanta. Bowers has been held illegally for several years by the US government. Please send our comrade a letter of support.

Veronza Bowers Jr. 35316-136
USP-Atlanta
P.O. Box 150160
Atlanta, GA 30315

Eric McDavid Transferred

Eco-Anarchist political prisoner has been transferred to FCI Victorville. McDavid was recently convicted to 20 years in prison for conspiracy to participate in Earth Liberation Front actions. His conviction rests on the testimony of government snitch and two of his co-defendants turned government witnesses, looking to escape harsh sentences. His new address is:

Eric McDavid 16209-097
FCI Victorville Medium II
P.O. Box 5700
Adelanto, CA 92301

New Knee for Tom Manning

It has been reported that Tom Manning had his knee replacement surgery on May 18th. So please send him a card.

Tom Manning #10373-016
P.O. Box 4000
Springfield, MO 65801



FORMER IRISH PRISONER OF WAR DETAINED BY US IMMIGRATION



Former Irish Republican Prisoner of War, Pol Brennan, has been detained by the US Border Patrol and is awaiting possible deportation. Brennan was arrested January 29th at a border checkpoint in southern Texas. He was identified through fingerprinting after a search of his background through the Joint Terrorism Task Force and Interpol.

In 1974, Brennan was interned for one year by British authorities without being charged with any criminal act. Two years later, he was sentenced to 16 years in the H-block section of Belfast's Maze prison. He participated in the dirty protests and at one point shared a cell with Bobby Sands, who later died on hunger strike.

In September 1983, thirty-eight prisoners broke free from the Maze. He soon arrived in the United States, where he quietly lived and worked in the construction trade.

Between 1992-1994, Pol Brennan and three other Irish Republicans (Kevin Artt, James Smyth and Terrence Kirby) were arrested in California. The men, known as the H-Block 4, fought a lengthy legal battle against an attempt by the British to extradite them. Smyth was extradited to Northern Ireland in 1996 and returned to prison. He was then released in 1998 as part of the Good Friday Agreement. In 2000, the British government announced that extradition requests for Brennan, Artt and Kirby were being withdrawn as part of the Good

Friday Agreement. The men officially remained fugitives, but in 2003 the Prison Service said they were not being "actively pursued".

Brennan was granted permission to remain in the US after the extradition case in 2000 was dropped, although his immigration status is still undecided. In 2006 he received a misdemeanor assault conviction after beating a building contractor who had refused to pay him \$1,000 in wages owed.

Prosecutors have argued that Brennan should be denied bail because of his questionable immigration status, the misdemeanor conviction and his IRA past.

In 2000, President Bill Clinton announced that deportation proceedings against the former IRA prisoners would be halted and they would move into "deferred action" status. Although the action was hailed at the time as a victory for the peace process, the former prisoners' status remained unresolved. A number of former IRA POWs face the same possible future as Brennan, the threat of deportation, although they have built new lives and raised their families in the U.S.

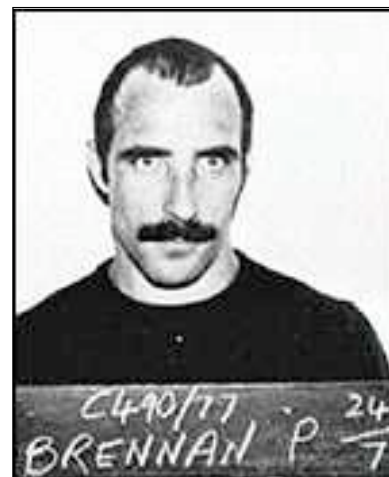
In response to the arrest of Brennan, U.S.-based Irish groups have joined up with former IRA prisoners living in the U.S. have formed a new group, Thar Saile (Overseas). The group hopes to assist those who immigration status is unresolved or who are threatened with deportation.

For more information about Thar Saile contact:

Thar Saile
PO Box 891054
Temecula, CA 92589-1054

Letters to Pol Brennan can be mailed to:

Pol Brennan
A88 785 324
South Texas Detention Complex
566 Veteran's Drive
Pearsall, TX 78061



McGowan Faces Grand Jury in Wisconsin

The government is still determined to escalate the campaign to undermine the environmental movement. In the recent months, reports have continued to update the prisoner support community as Daniel McGowan was transferred and forced to stand in front of a Grand Jury in Wisconsin, held in contempt and three more environmentalist were arrested.

While Daniel was in the process of being transferred to another facility, he was informed that he was being transferred to Madison, Wisconsin because of a subpoenaed to stand before a grand jury. The grand jury was investigating a 2000 attack at a federal forestry research station in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Authorities claim that during the attack 500 trees were damaged and spray paint and etching cream was used to vandalize U.S. Forest Service vehicles. The estimated damage went far beyond \$500,000.

From June 11 to July 24, Daniel was transferred back in forth to county jails in Wisconsin, during which time he appeared twice before the grand jury in Madison. Daniel only responded to questions regarding his plea agreement and remained silent on attempts to get him to confirm the names of the others the jury intended to indict. Because he refused to give names, the court charged him with civil contempt. The contempt charge remained for a week, until the government lifted the charge.

Since then, Daniel has been transferred back to Terre Haute. He has been informed that he has been designated to special unit in the federal prison in Marion, Illinois. He is waiting to be transferred.

Meanwhile, three other individuals have been indicted, Katherine Christianson, Bryan Rivera (a.k.a Bryan Lefey) and Aaron Ellringer. Daniel is currently an unindicted

coconspirator. Also indicted is Ian Wallace, a well known government stool. The three have been charged with conspiring to damage government property and damaging government property. They face up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

The indictment claims the five met at the annual Earth First conference in Tennessee in late June or early July. There, they planned the attack against the facility in Rhinelander. After the attack in July 20th, McGowan and Christianson sent out the communiqué on behalf of the ELF claiming responsibility for the attack.

It should be noted that most of the information in the indictment involves activities, other than the sending out of the communiqué, that revolve around or include Mr. Wallace. This must be part of Ian Wallace's on-going cooperation with prosecutors into Midwest ELF actions.

Woodfox's Conviction Overturned

A federal judge has overturned Albert Woodfox's conviction. Woodfox, who was held in solitary confinement for over 36 years, is one of three former Panthers known as the "Angola Three."

The Angola 3 are Herman Wallace & Albert Woodfox, who spent nearly 36 years in solitary and are still serving life sentences in Angola for the alleged murder of Brent Miller, a white correctional officer, in 1972; and Robert Wilkerson, who like Herman and Albert, was targeted for his activism, and then freed in 2001 after 29 years in solitary.

The three men were targeted because they were organizing for humane treatment and to put an end to segregation in the prison. The three men assisted in organizing work stoppage and hunger strike in attempt to achieve their demands. Their activism



angered prison authorities, who were determined to silence them.

A combination of fabricated evidence and a racist all-white jury convicted the three men who were sentence to life and placed in isolation to ensure their organizing days were over.

Woodfox's conviction was overturned because one of his former lawyers failed to object to a prosecutor's testimony about a

witness' credibility during his second trial. The judge also found the lawyer failed to object to testimony from a witness who had died after the first trial.

Woodfox, 61, was convicted of murder in 1973 and again at a second trial in 1998. He was in solitary confinement at the Angola prison from 1972 until this year, when he was moved into a maximum-security dormitory with other inmates.

One of the "Angola Three" has been released, after 29 years in isolation.

Herman Wallace is also appealing his conviction, using similar arguments used by Woodfox. Earlier this year, Wallace, was also moved out of solitary confinement.

The state attorney general has stated he is going to appeal the decision, bring the case before the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

State Supreme Court Ruling Against Omaha Two

by Michael Richardson

The Nebraska Supreme Court denied a pro se parole bid by Ed Poindexter in a decision many expected was a foregone conclusion.† However, in denying a request for parole eligibility the state high court signaled the difficulty Poindexter faces later this year when his request for a new trial is argued by Lincoln attorney Robert Bartle.

Poindexter was convicted in 1971 for the bombing murder of an Omaha policeman, Larry Minard, in a controversial trial marred by conflicting police testimony, withheld evidence, and tainted assistance by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Poindexter and co-defendant Mondo we Langa (formerly David Rice) both deny any involvement in the crime and were both targets of FBI director J. Edgar Hoover under the infamous Operation COINTELPRO which targeted the Black Panthers for "no holds barred" treatment.

Poindexter's request for a new trial comes after sophisticated vocal analysis by voice analyst Tom Owen in 2006 revealed that the confessed bomber, 15 year-old Duane Peak, did not make the emergency call that lured Minard to his death. Peak implicated Poindexter and Mondo we Langa making his credibility critical and leaving an unknown caller at large.

Retired Omaha detective Robert Pheffer also contradicted his own trial testimony about finding dynamite that was allegedly used in the fatal bomb in a dramatic and emotion-charged hearing in Douglas County District Court last year before Judge Russell Bowie.

At the time of the trial Omaha was gripped by racial tension. Former Nebraska governor Frank Morrison was Poindexter's



Ed Poindexter from Omaha Two

court-appointed public defender. Morrison described Omaha in a 2003 deposition.

"There was tremendous racial feeling. North Omaha was one of the hottest spots in the whole United States for racial violence.† In fact, when in 1966 we had to call out the National Guard, they set fire to North Omaha and we had to bring in the National Guard and take over to preserve order. There was terrible racial feeling. I don't have words to describe it, but there was terrible discrimination and hatred of African-Americans, terrible."

The "terrible racial feeling" Morrison described was fueled in part by COINTELPRO dirty tricks initiated by the FBI to disrupt the Black Panthers. Both Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa had been secret targets of Hoover's clandestine operation but the compromised role of the FBI was unknown by Omaha police who were

assisted by the federal agents in the search for Minard's killers and unknown by jurors who convicted Poindexter unaware of Hoover's secret directives against the Black Panthers.

The FBI, in cooperation with Omaha Assistant Chief of Police Glenn Gates, kept the recording of the emergency call from defense attorneys while the jurors who decided the fate of the two Black Panther leaders never heard the voice of the anonymous caller. A secret COINTELPRO memo obtained after the 1971 trial under the Freedom of Information Act revealed that release of the emergency tape recording would be "prejudicial to the police murder trial" case against Poindexter and Langa.

The jurors also never knew that Peak, the confessed bomber, brokered a deal where he served 33 months of juvenile detention and then walked free in exchange for his testimony against Poindexter and Langa. Nor did the jurors know that Raleigh House, the supplier of the dynamite, would never be formally charged and only spent one night in jail before being released on his own signature because the police wanted to claim Langa supplied the dynamite. In fact, Omaha Police Captain Murdock Platner did indeed make such a claim in sworn testimony to a Congressional committee contradicting actual trial testimony about the dynamite.

Details about the compromised FBI role in the case did not come until years after the trial and only judges, not jurors, have since been told about the withheld evidence, conflicting and contradictory police testimony, about the deal with Peak, and

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Pannell Gets One Month and \$250,000 Fine for Cop Shooting

Alleged former Black Panther, Joseph Pannell, who was accused of shooting a Chicago police officer in 1969 and who fled to Canada where he lived for more than 30 years will serve minimal jail time and contribute \$250,000 to a police aid fund under a plea agreement reached on February 22 in Cook County Criminal Court. Pannell, 58, who voluntarily returned to Chicago earlier in February after skipping bail in the 1970s, entered a guilty plea to a charge of aggravated battery and was sentenced to 30 days in jail and two years' probation.

He also will contribute \$250,000 to the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation, which aids children of police officers who have been catastrophically injured. This is

the same amount raised from community members in Toronto and defense lawyers in Cook County.

Pannell had been charged with attempted murder in connection with the shooting of Officer Terrence Knox, who was on patrol near 76th Street and Drexel Avenue when he approached Pannell, then 19, and asked why he wasn't inside nearby Hirsch High School. Pannell is accused of having shot Knox several times in the right arm, striking a major artery and several nerves. Although Knox still has partial use of the arm, the injury eventually caused him to retire from the police force and go into private business. Knox's family came up with the idea of the \$250,000 payment to aid the families of wounded police officers.

For decades, Pannell lived in Canada under the alias of Douglas Gary Freeman. He married, started a family and worked as a research library assistant near Toronto.. He was arrested in Canada in 2004 after the Chicago police cold-case squad, with the help of the FBI and Royal Canadian Mounted Police, tracked him through fingerprint records. Until recently, he fought extradition to the United States in Canadian courts.

Pannell was accused of having membership in the Black Panther Party in the 1960s, but Pannell's attorney, Neil Cohen, has denied this, claiming the accusation is designed to discredit him. In our view such connections gives him more not less credibility. Either way, Pannell is now free!

Shirosaki Faces Series of Health Issues

A series of reports have been sent out of USP Terre Haute regarding the health of Japanese political prisoner, Tsutomu Shirosaki. Shirosaki, who is serving a 30-year sentence for his alleged involvement in the Anti-Imperialist International Brigade, has suffered health issues ranging from near blindness to being infected with the norovirus. Shirosaki's condition is directly caused by the cruelty and incompetents of the prison authorities.

Three years ago, Shirosaki has surgery on his right eye after it was discovered he had cataracts. At the time, Shirosaki was at USP Beaumont and the prison stayed on top on his recovery. During the post-operation check-ups it discovered he also had glaucoma and cataracts in the left eye as well. He was informed he was going to have surgery to fix the problem, but before it could be done he was transferred to USP Terre Haute.

Since his transfer, the quality of medical care has been seriously reduced in Terre Haute. Shirosaki has received little care regarding his post-operation care, checking the status of his right eye only once. Refills for eye drops have frequently been delayed, causing Shirosaki to be nearly blind in his left eye.

Although doctors at Terre Haute have scheduled Shirosaki for surgery, he is concerned that if he has surgery the post-operation care he would receive would be equally as poor as what he is receiving now. However, if he refuses to have the surgery, he will get disciplinary punishment and may never get the operation he desperately needs. He has opted to risk surgery and hope that he does not become blind.



Shirosaki has also requested a transfer in hopes of being sent to a prison facility where care is better than at USP Terre Haute.

In early April, a letter was sent to the Los Angeles chapter from Tsutomu Shirosaki, informing the ABCF that the Communication Management Unit at USP Terre Haute was put on lock down due to an outbreak of the norovirus. Sadly, Shirosaki became one of the victims of the virus, becoming seriously ill.

The first victim became sick on the night of March 28th. Shirosaki fell ill the following morning. As the days passed more inmates increasingly became ill. By April 1st, nearly a dozen of the 47 inmates in the unit had fallen ill to the virus.

Doctors or licensed medical professionals only visit the unit once a week. Inmates must submit a sick call form and wait until the doctor comes. Despite the numerous sick call forms submitted by the inmates, according to Shirosaki, no doctor or medical professional ever examined the inmates. Instead the inmates were placed on lockdown and were forced to wait out the virus.

Originally, inmates thought the illness was caused by bad milk, which Shirosaki states happens "from time to time." It was only after the lockdown was announced did the prison authorities inform the inmates the illness was caused by the norovirus.

Norovirus is transmitted by fecal contaminated food and water and by person-to-person contact. Outbreaks of the virus often occur in closed environments, such as prisons and dormitories.

Shirosaki is being held in a Communication Management Unit where all inmates are kept isolated from the general public. All correspondence that comes into the unit is monitored by the FBI and the Department of Justice.

In the letter written by Shirosaki to LA ABCF, he stated that if the virus had been life threatening, he and the others would have died because everyone just assumed it was the milk.

Please write to Shirosaki:

Tsutomu Shirosaki
20924-016
PO Box 33
Terre Haute, IN 47808



Seven MOVE Members Denied Parole

Seven of the eight remaining 'MOVE 9' political prisoners have been denied parole throughout the beginning of this year. The MOVE members have been behind bars since the 1978 attack on the MOVE house that left a Philadelphia Police Officer dead and seven others injured.

In April, the three female MOVE 9 members, Debbie Sims Africa, Janet Hollaway Africa and Janine Phillips Africa, were informed of the decision and the reasons for the rejection. They were told the denial of their parole was because they had minimized or denied the "nature and circumstances" of the offense, "refused to accept responsibility" and lacked remorse.

The following month, Michael Davis Africa and Edward Goodman Africa were denied parole. And in June William Phillips Africa and Delbert Orr Africa.

The Philadelphia District Attorney's Office urged the board to require the defendants to serve the maximum of their 30- to 100-year prison terms.

The seven were among nine MOVE

members, convicted in a 19-week trial in 1980. An eighth member, Charles Simms will be go before the board in November; Merle Africa, the ninth member, died on March 13, 1998 under suspicious circumstances.

All nine were found guilty of third-degree murder in the shooting death of a Philadelphia Officer and the attempted murders of the others shot and injured that day, when police tried to evict 12 adults and 11 children from their headquarters at 33d and Pearl Streets in Powelton Village.

During the altercation, police surrounded the headquarters and pumped hundreds of gallons of water into the house and opened fire with high-powered weapons and tear gas. When the shooting stopped, a cop named James Ramp lay dead. MOVE adults came out of the house carrying their children through clouds of tear gas and were immediately taken into custody. MOVE claims it never fired any shots and no MOVE members had any weapons when they were arrested.

There was no evidence that anyone from MOVE shot Ramp, and there is evidence he could have been shot by police fire. An autopsy showed Ramp was shot from above and behind while MOVE members were in the basement. None of the weapons the police claimed to have "found" in the MOVE house had the fingerprints of any MOVE members on them. No ballistics match linked the weapon that killed Ramp with any weapon connected with MOVE.

The 1978 confrontation was a pivotal moment in the city's torturous history with the radical group and ultimately set the stage for another disaster - the May 1985 fire that killed 11 MOVE members, including five children, and destroyed 61 houses in West Philadelphia. The 11 were killed after police dropped a bomb on the MOVE headquarters and decided to let it burn. No cop was ever charged with these murders.

The MOVE parole decisions illustrates that the Pennsylvania authorities will stop at nothing to continue their repression against the MOVE organization.

Anarchist Prisoner Escapes and is Recaptured

Anarchist prisoner and long-term prison resister John Bowden went on the run in mid-May while out on a routine shopping trip from HMP Noranside. His freedom lasted only a few weeks for he was captured on June 6, 2008. He is now back in maximum security in Scotland.

Police discovered Bowden hiding on a farm on the outskirts of Glasgow, after they received a tip from an informant. The incident at the farm quickly escalated into a tense siege situation, with armed anti-terror Police surrounded the farm. It was at this point that John feared that this was a scene the cops would be only too happy for him not to walk out of alive. However with the intervention of a sympathetic journalist a line of communication was opened and the siege ended peacefully after 7 hours, with John and another person arrested.

The Scottish media had from the outset portrayed John's being-at-large with predictably sensational headlines ('Mad Axeman on the loose', etc...) when in reality he had been on home leave once a month for the past 12 months and on the long road to eventual release.

John was convicted for a murder he

describes as stupid and a terrible mistake, has spent his entire adult life in prison. Politicized by his incarceration he's regularly paid the price for his resistance through long periods of isolation, brutal beatings and treatment amounting to torture. He has never been broken and is one of the UK's most articulate and vociferous prison writers and a powerful advocate of prisoner's rights.

Bowden was days away from being reconsidered for parole. He felt, however, this was nothing more than a dog-and-pony show and they were looking to fix him.

In May 2007 the Scottish Prison and Probation Service (SPS) were involved in a clumsy attempt to prevent his parole by framing him (and smearing the ABC prisoner support network) with accusations that the ABC was involved in terrorism and that Bowden was therefore associating with terrorists! This all spectacularly backfired, with the SPS issuing a full apology. However it was successful in preventing his parole then and cost him a transfer back to closed conditions for 6 months.

In Britain life sentence prisoners are in the hands of the Parole Board who can

stretch a prisoner's term to suit their prejudices. Not having a fixed date to work towards is a form of torture in itself. On top of that, in May this year, during a routine drug test he provided a false positive result for cocaine (a second subsequent test established that he was in fact drug free). Under duress and fearing yet another fit-up was under way to prevent his release and send him back to maximum security again, he escaped.

At the moment John is facing fresh charges over his escape while on home leave (and resisting arrest) and is potentially likely to suffer a major setback to his eventual release. Therefore it is vital that John is supported through these difficult times and the Scottish Prison Service put on notice that it cannot isolate and persecute prisoners at will.

Write to John Bowden at:

John Bowden
Prison No. 6729
HM Prison Glenochil
King OMuir Road
Tullibody FK10 3AD Scotland

Notes for 2008 ABCF Conference in L.A.

On June 7-8th delegates from ABCF chapters converged in Los Angeles for the first conference in over two years. Representatives from Toronto, Montreal, New York and Los Angeles were present. However, delegates from New Jersey, Jacksonville and Philadelphia were unable to attend but forwarded their positions on some of the most critical issues. Below are the issues addressed at the conference and the outcome of those discussions. Overall, the conference was a success and the ABC Federation was able to address some longtime critical conflicts in the organization. Chapters left with a renewed commitment to the work of the Anarchist Black Cross Federation.

Active Groups/Inactive

Groups concern about non-active status of some of the groups in the Federation (New Jersey and Jacksonville).

Outcome: Delegates at the conference were made aware of present situation affecting some of the members of those groups. Federation Council agreed to leave chapters on the list of ABCF groups. Los Angeles will keep ABCF abreast of any updates of the two groups. The Federation should inquire if there is anyone else in those chapters who can step up and play a more active role. The inactive organizations will not have a vote at the conference and their votes will not be reinstated until the criteria of support group has been fulfilled.

Montreal and Philadelphia Vote

Montreal and Philadelphia were not present at conference. Sara (former member of Montreal) felt she could speak on Montreal's position. LA has spoken with Philadelphia enough that they felt could represent their position on the major issues.

Outcome: All chapters agreed that Montreal and Philadelphia would get to vote despite not being at the conference.

Drug Policy

NYC ABC put forward a proposal to change to by-law #7 of the ABCF constitution.

Outcome: By-law #7 will be deleted and replaced with the following language:

"All ABCF members should abstain from illegal drug use and from abusing alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs. This is to defend our organization against the harm that substance abuse has cause to many organizations and communities of resistance. All members are responsible for doing everything within their power to prevent illegal activity from being associated with members of the ABCF."

(This language will apply to both Canadian and US chapters)

EL/AL Prisoners

A proposal was put forward by the LA chapter that would create guidelines for EL/AL prisoners for ABCF political prisoner recognition.

Outcome: The parameters for EL/AL prisoners for the ABCF list will include:

"EL/AL prisoners who aboveground work or communiqué(s) (for actions they have pleaded to) contextualize them as part of the broader anarchist, socialist, anti-capitalist or anti-imperialist struggles."

(This language will be worked into the ABCF guide.)

Prison Council

Proposal was put forward that the ABCF should find a way to increase involvement of the Prison Committee (PC).

Outcome: The ABCF will encourage the PC to have a greater involvement in the Update (articles, etc.) and overall general discussions in the Federation. Every group is encouraged to have contact with prisoners on the PC but specific ABCF members will be responsible to be the main contact from PC members.

Contacts for PC:

Tim (PH) – Ojore Lutalo
Brandan (NYC) – Maliki Latine
Matt (LA) – Bill Dunne
Andrew (NYC) – Daniel McGowan

Additional prisoners will be asked if they are interested in taking on PC positions (Sekou Odinga, Oscar Lopez and Sekou Kambui.) Sara will contact said prisoners. There is a concern about role of McGowan on the PC because of his transfer.

Caucus

Proposal put forward to renew some of the caucuses. Sara would like to see stronger support for Women's Caucus in the ABCF.

Outcome: Women's Caucus will be established. Men's Caucus and others may be formed as a sign of support and solidarity.

Website/Listserve

There was a concern about how members cannot get on the list. Yahoo list has not been working properly. There was also concerned about how LA ABC's PP/POW's fliers are difficult to find.

Outcome: New list will be formed and discussions will be transferred to the list. All groups are suppose to send Toronto

ABC a list of all member's emails who wish to be on the list. Toronto ABC will maintain list. LA ABC will transfer fliers on to ABCF website.

October 10th March

Political Prisoner groups in New York will organize a PP/POW march on to the UN. NYC ABC has asked for a showing from the ABCF.

Outcome: Statement of solidarity will be written by Brendan (NYC) and presented to the ABCF for edits. Groups are asked to sign on to statement.

Constitution

Changes on language on ABCF constitution was postponed until next conference. NYC raised concern about term "backward and criminal" used in constitution. NYC concerned about connotations related to words. They would like similar language that is equally strong but does not have same baggage.

FC discussed to need to rededicate the ABCF to the constitution and the programs of the organization (Warchest). The council also addressed the lack of consistent communication and there is a need to formalize communication. There is a concern on how the ABCF can stay on top of the campaigns and medical emergencies of the prisoners.

Outcome: The following measures have been agreed upon to increase accountability in the Federation:

The FC will meet the first Monday of the month to address Federation issues. Meetings will take place on the following dates: 7/7, 8/4, 9/1, 10/6, 11/3, 12/1.

The FC is calling for a renewed commitment to the language regarding fundraising for the Warchest. The language insists that Branch groups send in "a reasonable amount" to the Warchest monthly. It was agreed that a reasonable amount should be consistent with the monthly-multiplier used in the past. All groups will not be expected to do some form of fundraising for the Warchest every month. The fundraising of each chapter will be reviewed at the monthly meetings.

A directory of contacts will be created again. Contacts for the listserve will be also

sent to Matt (LA) for the establishment of the directory. The directory will be sent as a pdf to all groups. Directory will include IM names, emails, phones and caucus contacts for each chapter.

The ABCF will begin to develop more Federation-wide campaigns, where all chapters will work together on larger campaigns. (Future campaigns may include fundraising for Ojore Lutalo and Chip Fitzgerald.)

The ABCF will also work on developing

more Federation-wide public statements (such as solidarity statements.)

Develop strong rapid response campaigns. FC monthly meetings will review campaigns that have taken place in the last month and will discuss what follow through is needed.

Critical Resistance Conf./ Anniversary

There will be a Critical Resistance conference celebrating the 10th anniversary of the organization on September 26-28th.

There was a discussion on how ABCF can support/participate in the conference.

Outcome: Issue will be reviewed at next conference. There is a possibility of solidarity statement being issued. LA will see they can participate in conference.

Next Conference:

The next conference is presently proposed for Toronto. Location may be determined by the Ojore Lutalo's release date.



The crew at the 2008 ABCF Conference, Los Angeles



J (LA) and Sara (Toronto)



Brian (Toronto) and Lane (LA) on the drug issue



Damani (LA), Andrew (NY) and Brendan (NY)



Matt and Tim (LA) expressing their opinion



Sara (Toronto) and Tim (LA)

Jeff Luers' Sentenced Reduced, Transferred

On February 28, 2008, a re-sentencing hearing took place in the Lane County Circuit Court in front of Judge Billings. This followed an Oregon court of appeals ruling in February 2007 that Luers original sentence of 22 years 8 months by Judge Lyle Velure was illegal, and the appeals court remanded the case back to Lane County Circuit Court for re-sentencing. Following the appeals court decision, negotiations have resulted in the decision today to reduce Luers sentence to 10 years, bringing his release date to late December 2009.

In June 2001, then 23 year-old Jeffrey "Free" Luers was arrested for the burning of three trucks at a Eugene car dealership. His stated purpose was to raise awareness about global warming and the role that SUVs and trucks play in that process. Despite the fact that this action hurt no one, caused only \$28,000 in damages and the cars were later resold, Luers received the draconian sentence imposed by Velure.

Luers gained support locally as well as all over the world as a political prisoner. It is widely believed that Luers received such a drastic sentence because of the political nature of the action he took. Following his original sentence, Amnesty International and the Eugene Human Rights Commission (EHRC) issued letters of support citing that the sentence appeared to be politically

motivated. During the course of his trial, statements were made by the police and prosecuting attorney that indicated it was Luers' political views on trial, not merely his actions. His defense successfully proved that evidence had been tampered with, officers had lied and that the prosecutor had manipulated evidence to get a legal search warrant at his residence. Luers was given a sentence that attempted to send the message to environmental and social justice activists that even a merely symbolic act of property destruction could be punished more harshly than many crimes against persons.

Prior to his imprisonment, Luers was a very well respected community activist in Eugene, Oregon involved with forest defense and cooking free food for the city's homeless population. He has remained active from prison, often writing news articles and monthly dispatches to his growing list of supporters. With a release date on the horizon, Luers future is bright and he plans to pursue courses and looks forward to sharing quality time with his family and loved ones.

Statement from Jeffrey Luers:

"Today I feel a great weight lifted off of me, and my loved ones. While I believe my new sentence is still more of a reflection of my activism and my dissent than my actual

crimes; I am looking forward to my much closer release date.

I am proud of the many things I have accomplished while incarcerated, including reaching beyond oceans and borders to help raise awareness about global warming and to help combat social injustice.

I am thankful of my family, friends and the thousands of supporters and fellow activists from around the world who have stood by me since day one.

And I'd especially like to thank my attorneys, and friends. Lauren Regan, Misha Dunlap and Shawn Wiley for never giving up on getting me out sooner than 22 years.

I am happy to say this journey is almost over and I'll be coming home soon."

In mid April, Jeff was transferred to the Columbia River Correctional Institution in Portland, Oregon. It is not currently known if this is his final destination prior to his release.

Overall, the news for Jeff is fantastic news. Jeff is expected to be released by Fall 2009.

For those interested in writing him:

Jeffrey Luers # 13797671
CRCI
9111 NE Sunderland Ave
Portland, OR 97211-1708

Tre Arrow Takes Plea for 78 Months

In June 2008, ELF political prisoner, Tre Arrow, pled guilty to two counts of arson, one count for the Ross Island Sand and Gravel incident and one for the Schoppert Logging incident. Arrow will receive a sentence of 78 months at his sentence. He will receive credit for the time he spent in Canadian jails and in American jails. Arrow was facing life in prison if convicted of all 14 counts in the indictment. The twelve other counts will be dismissed at sentencing.

Arrow is wanted by the government in connection with the April 15, 2001 arson at Ross Island Sand and Gravel in Portland. Three trucks were damaged in the amount of \$200,000. The ELF claimed for the attack. He was also wanted for an attack a month later at Ray Schoppert Logging Company in Estacada, Oregon, on June 1, 2001. Two logging trucks and a front loader were damaged, resulting in \$50,000 worth of damage. The ELF did not claim responsibility, but the explosions were similarly created by milk jugs filled with gasoline, and a fuse made from incense and a pack of matches.



Arrow was connected with the incidents after Jacob Sherman, who had been detained for over 4-months in connection with the arsons, named three others who participated in the actions: Tre Arrow, Angela Cesario and Jeremy Rosenbloom. Cesario and Rosenbloom entered plea agreements, however they disputed Sherman's claim that Arrow was the mastermind for the arsons. They claimed Jacob Sherman was the actual mastermind.

Arrow was indicted by a federal grand jury in Oregon and charged with four felonies for this crime on October 18,

2002. He was listed on the FBI's December 2002 most-wanted list, and appeared on the America's Most Wanted television program.

Arrow sought political asylum in Canada. On March 13th, 2004, Arrow was arrested in Victoria for stealing bolt cutters and was also charged with being in Canada illegally. He was in custody in Victoria's Wilkinson Penitentiary where he unsuccessfully fought extradition back to the United States. Arrow has avoided a possible sentence of life in prison with the June 3rd, 2008 plea agreement that will include time served in Canada.

Arrow's family and supporters had expressed concern that he could not receive a fair trial in the United States due to character assassination by the media; several newspapers have referred to Arrow as an "eco-terrorist", and the FBI held his capture up as an example of its success in prosecuting terrorists in a 2004 report to Congress. Judges in both Canadian and American cases against him have ruled that the term "terrorist" could not be used during the proceedings against him.

Continued from page 4

about the voice analysis that contradicts the story of the state's chief murderous witness against Poindexter.

The Nebraska Supreme Court ruled that Poindexter's bid for parole must fail because the Board of Pardons has not commuted his life sentence to a term of years thus depriving the Board of Parole the ability to grant a parole request. In responding to Poindexter's arguments that numerous other prisoners serving life sentences have been released on parole after serving less time than he has the court said that a commutation of sentence was a "discretionary state privilege" and that even if "granted generously in the past" Poindexter had no legal entitlement to similar consideration.

While the expected ruling against parole for Poindexter does not presage the outcome of his pending new trial request some of the language in the decision does suggest that attorney Robert Bartle will have his work cut out for him during oral arguments scheduled for this fall.

In the ten-page decision there were three references to the underlying crime, the murder of Larry Minard. In the opening summary of the decision the Nebraska

Supreme Court properly noted, "In 1971, a jury convicted Edward Poindexter of first degree murder."

"There was terrible racial feeling. I don't have words to describe it, but there was terrible discrimination and hatred of African-Americans, terrible."

However, two later references were less neutral and potentially betray a bias of the court to the prosecution case. The court discussed sentencing statutes, "in 1970 when Poindexter committed his offense." In the conclusion of the decision the court repeated the bias and used the statement "when Poindexter committed his crime" to describe the killing of Minard.

Nebraska newspapers, which have not reported on the COINTELPRO manipulation of the case against Poindexter, branded headlines about Cop-Killer Poindexter Denied Parole following the language of the court decision.

Meanwhile, Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa remain imprisoned at the maximum security Nebraska State Penitentiary serving life sentences while three of

Minard's killers, Duane Peak, the confessed bomber; Raleigh House, the supplier of the dynamite; and the unknown emergency line caller walk free.

Last week in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, federal Magistrate Christine Nolan recommended that Black Panther Albert Woodfox, serving a life sentence at Angola State Prison, should be granted a new trial.† U.S. District Judge James Brady has yet to rule on Nolan's recommendation.† The new trial recommendation followed a state court denial of a new trial request last month for co-defendant Herman Wallace.† Wallace and Woodfox were held in solitary confinement for 36 years and only recently have been moved to regular maximum security cells. The two men, leaders in a prison chapter of the Black Panthers, were convicted for the murder of a prison guard during a riot at the prison in 1972 on the testimony of another prisoner released in exchange for testimony against the Panthers.

In Nebraska, a decision on Poindexter's request for a new trial is expected later this year.

(Michael Richard is a freelance writer based in Boston. He writes about politics, election law, human nutrition and ethics)

FREQUENTLY USED

Acronyms/ Terms

ABCF: Anarchist Black Cross Federation - anti-authoritarian federation of ABC groups who support and defend PP/POWs.

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

ABC-SG: Support Group - ABCF group with fewer 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 the BPP, inactive 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 whose members are committed to the teachings of John Africa. Their belief is in "life."

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

PP/POWs: 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 the U.S.)

Self Determination: The right by virtue of which all peoples are entitled freely to determine their political status and 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 their own means of subsistence.

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

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

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

(The Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) produces the Revolutionary Political Dictionary with these and other expanded definitions of political terms. Available from Los Angeles ABC for \$1 and two 41 cents stamps.)

Avelino Gonzalez Claudio Arrested, Puerto Rican Community Harassed

On February 7, the FBI captured Los Macheteros member Avelino Gonzalez Claudio in the Puerto Rican town of Manati. Gonzalez Claudio, who has been living 23 years underground, was wanted in connection with the 1983 armed robbery of \$7.1 million from the Wells Fargo armored car depot in Hartford, Connecticut. The expropriation was the largest in the United States.

Gonzalez was one of 19 people indicted in the planning and participation of the Hartford expropriation. Some of those imprisoned for the action (Antonio Camacho-Negron and Juan Segarra-Palmer) had been supported by the ABCF while imprisoned.

The FBI believes Gonzalez he has been living in Puerto Rico since 1985 when he fled after being indicted for the Hartford expropriation. He has been teaching at a private school under an assumed name, Jose Ortega Morales before being captured.

After two brief court appearances on the island in February, a U.S. District judge in Puerto Rico ordered him transferred to Hartford, where he now is scheduled to stand trial for participating in the Hartford robbery.

Gonzalez is facing 15 charges associated with the robbery, ranging from multiple counts of robbery by force of a federally insured bank, conspiracy to interfere with commerce by robbery, the interstate or foreign transport of stolen goods, and conspiracy against the United States. If convicted, Avelino Gonzalez Claudio could face up to 275 years in prison.

Gonzalez has pled not guilty to the crime he is accused. In April the court denied bail claiming Gonzalez has as a flight risk.

Also wanted in connection to Los Macheteros activity and the Hartford robbery are Victor Gerena and Gonzalez's brother, Norberto Gonzalez Claudio. Gerena is believed to be in Cuba, whereas Norberto is believed to be somewhere in Puerto Rico.

Additional Charges

Allegedly, the funds seized during the Hartford action were to be used to fund the Puerto Rican independence movement and support other Leftist formations in Latin America. From 1976 to the present day, the Los Macheteros has taken credit for a variety of actions including the attack on 11 fighter jets at a National Guard air base and killing of two sailors during an attack on a US Navy bus.

Prosecutors are also trying to link Gonzalez to additional actions believed to be committed by Los Macheteros. In the early '80s, two rocket attacks targeted various US institutions in San Juan. The FBI claims they found fingerprints matching those of Gonzalez on the armrest of a Chevrolet parked near the site of one of the attacks targeting the FBI offices on October 30, 1983. Despite their claims of Gonzalez's connection, the FBI admitted they cannot conclusively tie Gonzalez's fingerprints to the attack. However, the FBI claims they have tied Gonzalez's fingerprints to a second rocket attack on the federal courthouse and US post office building in 1985.

Renewed Harassment

Gonzalez's apprehension appears connected to renewed government interest in Los Macheteros. In September 2005, FBI agents shot and killed the leader of the Los Macheteros, Filberto Ojeda Rios, who also had been underground since the late 1980s.

Recent investigations have produced scientific evidence that proves the FBI agent who fired the fatal shot that killed Ojeda Rios lied about the justification for killing the revolutionary. The agent claimed he fired because he could see Ojeda Rios pointing a gun at him from inside the residence. The evidence compiled determined the agent could not have seen Ojeda Rios through the window as he indicated.

The agent's bullet pierced a refrigerator before hitting Ojeda Rios. Some reports indicate Ojeda Rios was alive for 15 to 30 minutes before bleeding to death. Other reports indicate he was alive for a considerable amount longer before he bled to death. In either case, no medical assistance was given to Ojeda Rios to try to save him.

Since Ojeda Rios' death, FBI agents have served search warrants on suspected Los Macheteros members or sympathizers in Puerto Rico and New York.

In mid-April, FBI agents visited several Puerto Rican independentistas allegedly in connection with an investigation currently underway. Two people associated with The New School, Miguel Viqueira and Tania Delgado Soto were harassed and threatened at their homes by agents, but were not informed as to what the investigation was about. 'The New School' develops political work in public housing and poor communities across the Island and is an integral part of the independentista movement.

Some within the Puerto Rican commu-

nity have suggested the harassment is an attempt to provoke a similar incident to what had taken place with Ojeda Rios.

It seems the government will stop at nothing to harass, imprison and if need be, assassinate the leader in the independence movement in Puerto Rico. Under the guise of fighting terrorism, the government is determined to force colonialism of the people of Puerto Rico, even if that means using terrorism to do it.

It is for this reason the political prisoner support community needs to support Avelino Gonzalez Claudio. The ABCF encourages people to write him and do what is necessary to provide assistance to him and family.

Avelino Gonzalez Claudio

Northern Correctional Institution
287 Bilton Road,
POB 665
Somers, CT 06071

More Grand Jury Hearings

Tania Frontera, a graphic designer, and Christopher Torres, a social worker, have been ordered to appear before the Grand Jury at the Brooklyn Federal Court investigating the Puerto Rican independence movement. Two groups: Puerto Rico Committee for Human Rights and the National Boricua Human Rights Network have filed motions to intervene in support to have the subpoenas thrown out on constitutional grounds.

So far, since the new year of 2008, Puerto Ricans Tania Frontera, a graphic designer, Christopher Torres, a social worker, Julio Pabon, a filmmaker, Elliot Monteverde Torres, a lawyer and spokesperson for the Vieques Alliance (a New York based coalition that fought to rid the US Navy from the island municipality of Vieques, Puerto Rico) and a fifth person, an independentista and human rights activist, have been subpoenaed to the Brooklyn Federal Court in New York City. They attest that they will not be intimidated nor allow for their political ideas to be suppressed. Historically, the US government has used the federal grand jury since the 1930's as an instrument of political internment of Puerto Rican pro-independence activists. Those who refused to testify by exercising the established pro-independence political principle of 'non collaboration' to the grand jury can be held in 'contempt of court' and imprisoned.

Fitzgerald Event Illustrates 40 Years of Resistance and Repression

On June 28th, supporters of Romaine 'Chip' Fitzgerald gathered together to raise awareness of his case and his July 2nd parole hearing. Chip, who will be going on his 39th year in prison this fall, has the unwanted privilege of being the longest held Black Panther political prisoner in the United States. His case epitomizes the culmination of the dirty tricks and tactics the U.S. government employed in its effort to destroy the Black Panther Party.

Among the organization present at the event were the Committee to Free Chip Fitzgerald Support, All of Us or None of Us, the Brown Berets, Puerto Rican Alliance, Anti-Racist Action, the Black Riders, and the Anarchist Black Cross Federation. Also represented in the crowd were former members of the Black Panther Party, including Ronald Elder Freeman, David Hilliard and Elaine Brown.

The gathering was a reminder of not only the rich history of the Black Liberation struggle found in the city of Los Angeles, but also the nearly forty years of political repression against the Black Panther Party and those groups who have been inspired by the organization.

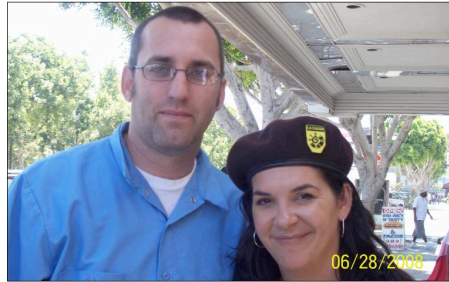
During the era of the Black Panthers, Los Angeles saw some of the brutal repression targeting the party. It is well-documented that, in the late 1960s, the FBI and other policing agencies of the government developed and carried out a concerted plan to neutralize or wipe out the Black Panther Party, after FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover issued his infamous declaration that the Party was the "greatest threat" to the nation's security. As a result of the FBI's brutal campaign, many Party leaders were assassinated, falsely imprisoned, imprisoned under extraordinary sentences, slandered and demonized, as Party offices were assaulted and Party programs were undermined. L.A. party leadership seemed to be in their line of sight.

The first Black Panther to be killed was Bunchy Carter's brother, Arthur Morris, who was killed in March 1968 under suspicious circumstances ". In August of 1968, Los Angeles police gunned down Panthers Tommy Lewis, Steve Bartholomew and Robert Lawrence while being pulled over at a gas station.

As part of the government plot, the FBI helped to fuel the feud between the Panthers and Karenga's United Slaves. On December 30, 1968, a member of the Party, Frank Diggs, was found dead in an alley the Long Beach/San Pedro area of Los Angeles. Though his death has

remained unsolved, some suggest it was connected in the Panther/Karenga feud. The following month, members of Karenga's group killed John Huggins and L.A. Panther leader, Bunchy Carter were killed at UCLA. On March 14, 1969, following a student strike meeting at Victory Baptist Church, an altercation ensued in the parking lot between United Slave members and Panthers. Panther Ronald Freeman, mentioned earlier in the article, was wounded in the chest and groin. Local police watched the fight from their vehicle parked across the street and did not intervene.

On September 18, 1969, Nathaniel



Matt (LA) & Jenn (Brown Berets)

Clark was shot in the face in his sleep by "party or parties unknown." The same month, Chip and several other Panthers were involved in a shootout with a CHP officer and sustained a gunshot wound to the head. He survived this attack, only to be arrested the following month and charged with assault on police and the murder of a security guard. He was convicted and sentenced to death, which was commuted to life.

The same month Chip was arrested, the LAPD shot two other Panthers, Walter Toure Pope and Bruce Richards. Pope was killed in the incident. Pope was trying to order food at Jack-in-the-box restaurant when the police shot him, believe he was "trying to rob the place."

The LAPD finished the year with a nearly six-hour assault against the L.A. Panther headquarters by the LAPD's newly formed SWAT Team at the same time the Chicago police assassinated Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in Chicago.

During the same period of Chip's frame-up, the government was working on convicting Geronimo Pratt for a Santa Monica robbery and murder that the FBI knew he was not guilty of committing. He served 27 years in prison before the truth was revealed.

At the same time Pratt was being railroaded, his pregnant wife Sandra Pratt, was found dead on the side of the road. Her body was riddled with bullets.

Same Weapons, Different Era

And while some may believe that the targeting the Black Liberation movement and the Black Panther Party in Los Angeles has disappeared with along J. Edgar Hoover and the father of SWAT and former Police Chief Daryl Gates, we would be strongly mistaken if we believe that to be the case.

It should be no surprise that among those who attended Chip's event were members of the Black Riders Liberation Party (BRLP). The Riders, who some say is today's manifestation of the Panther, has been the target of the LAPD for well over ten years now.

Last year, the three leading members of the Black Riders Liberation Party, General Wolverine Shakur (a.k.a., T.A.C.O. - Taking All Capitalists Out), Sechzwan White (a.k.a., Stress) and Aryana Shakur, were indicted on bogus charge to possess automatic weapons and attempted possession of a machine gun.

The three have remained in prison with a bail of half a million for Aryana to a million dollars apiece for T.A.C.O. and Stress.

The District Attorney claimed that the Black Riders Liberation Party attempted to purchase weapons in order to further their plot to enter and shoot up various LAPD stations in the city. While the prosecutors have developed this outrageous story, they have not charged the members of the organization with the plot, only with the weapons charges. However, it was this unsubstantiated allegation that was the basis to justify the raids, undercover cops and surveillance directed at the BRLP.

In addition to these charges the



T.A.C.O. from the BRLP (center)

District Attorney attempted add a gang enhancement charge, but that was later dropped. They were forced to drop the enhancement charge when undercover officers testified that the BRLP claimed no territory, bore no identifying gang-style tattoos and, in fact, resembled the Black Panther Party. Police acknowledged under oath that the Black Riders

were proud Africans, advocates for Black unity and avowed communists. This testimony makes clear the political nature of the charges and the whole case.

In late July, the three Black Riders facing charges pled to attempted possession of a machine gun. Comrades Aryana and Stress were released. General TACO received two years with time served. He is expected to be released in six months or less.

General T.A.C.O. and others formed the Black Rider Liberation Party while being held in a California Youth Authority prison. At the time he was working with New Panther Vanguard, which was formed after the erosion of the Panther Party in Los Angeles. T.A.C.O. split the New Panther Vanguard because he felt the organization did not reflect the issue impact young black youth. The BRLP was further developed by members of the Blood and Crips, while the organization was working on the gang truce.

Although the BRLP have been the targets of police harassment and set-ups for their entire 12-year history, the recent series of busts and high-power raids have taken place in the context of the BRLP popularizing the case of the San Francisco 8, as well as, leading Black resistance and building Black-Brown unity against the racist Minutemen.

Combined with the effectiveness of their "Watch-a-Pig" programs and their peace-making efforts and political education with Bloods and Crips street organization members, these successes brought the BRLP under the cross hairs of the highly political repressive apparatus of the LAPD.

The BRLP has been building chapters and making contacts in San Diego, Sacramento and the Bay Area. As their recognition and support in the Black community of south L.A., Crenshaw, Watts and the Inland Empire has grown, the police have grown more intent on dis-

rupting their activities. These latest raids and high bails are further proof that the system hates and wants to destroy organized resistance among Black community.

Throughout the ongoing campaign by the government against the Riders, former Panthers have continued to offer their support and experience. The Riders have continued to provide support for Panthers currently in prison and/or facing charges - like the San Francisco 8.

The event for Romaine Fitzgerald illustrated to all participants both the extent the government will go to repress resistance movements, as well as, the resilience of revolutionaries to continue the struggle for the liberation.

Sadly, despite the celebratory nature of the event for Romaine Fitzgerald, it was reported a week later that Chip was denied parole. He was instructed to return in one year. It has been reported that Chip remains strong and is awaiting his freedom.

The Anarchist Subsistence Program

The Anarchist Subsistence Program seeks to provide material aid to those PP/POWs who come from our own anarchist/anti-authoritarian community.

As with the Warchest, this program is designed to aid PP/POWs who receive little financial aid. However, it is unique because it exclusively assists those from the anarchist/anti-authoritarian community.

Over the last few years there has been an increase of anarchist/anti-authoritarian PP/POWs. Most of these new prisoners have support committees who raise awareness and funds on their behalf. Long held anarchist/anti-authoritarian PP/POWs have had their support overshadowed by these new cases. This program is designed to ensure that support for them remains consistent.

The two functions of this support campaign include a monthly financial assistance and forty 43¢ 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 distributes the funds among anarchist political prisoners who participate in the program. 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).

Subsistence Report for 2007

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
NY ABCF	0	0	0	20	20	0	75
LA ABCF	0	0	0	160	0	0	0
TOR. ABCF	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
JAX	0	0	0	0	0	50	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	180	20	50	125

Stamp Schedule

Aug- Philadelphia

Sept- Los Angeles

Oct- Los Angeles

Nov- Los Angeles

Send a check or money order to Philadelphia ABCF made out to Tim Fasnacht for forty 43¢ stamps in the last week of the month before the month for which you are responsible.

Philadelphia ABCF
P.O Box 42129
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Name: _____ 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 money
made to **TIM FASNACHT** to:
Philly ABCF
P.O Box 42129
Philadelphia, PA 19101
timABCF@aol.com
toll free (877) 673-2658

\$50,000 Raised Through the Warchest Program!

SUPPORT THE ABCF WARCHEST

The ABCF has initiated a program designed to send monthly checks to PP/POWs who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment. PP/POWs 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/POWs called the Prisoner Committee, who make 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/POWs 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. Since its inception, the ABCF has raised over \$50,000 with just this one program. All funds raised go directly to the political prisoners, for which the program is designed. Despite our success, our comrades are still in dire need of funds. Endorse this program by giving a 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.



Send cash, checks or mos made to TIM FASNACHT to:
Philly ABCF • P.O Box 42129 • Philadelphia, PA 19101 • timABCF@aol.com

FUNDS IN	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
LA ABCF	0	0	0	0	500	0	0
PHL ABCF	20	0	0	20	20	0	25
TORONT ABCF	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
JAX ABCF	0	0	0	0	0	50	0
NY ABCF	0	0	0	20	20	0	201
RYAN/ALSKA	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
PROPAGANDI	0	0	0	0	0	115	0
JUSTIN/CLEV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ANON	0	0	0	0	0	25	0
TOTAL	45	0	0	40	540	190	326

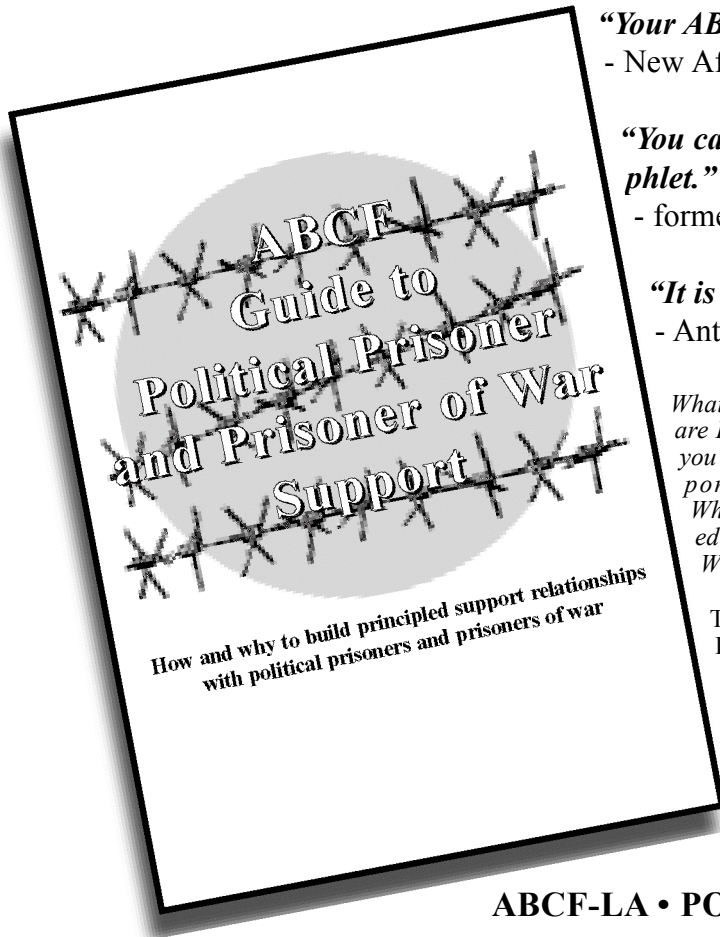
FUNDS OUT	Jan-08	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
SEKOU KAMBUI	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
RUSSELL SHOATZ	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
JOSEPH BOWEN	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
HANIFF BEY	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
HERMAN BELL	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
SEKOU ODINGA	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
RUCHELL MAGEE	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
ALVARO HERNANDEZ	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
MALIKI LATINE	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
TSUTOMU SHIROSAKI	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
OJORE LUTALO	0	0	0	0	100	0	0
TOTAL	300	300	300	300	400	300	300

FUNDS REMAINING: \$2172.50

FUNDS IN	
1994	351
1995	3860
1996	4143
1997	3544
1998	7643
1999	5814
2000	3514
2001	5290
2002	2873
2003	1785
2004	UNACC*
2005	4439
2006	3268
2007	4312
2008	1141
TOTAL	51977

FUNDS OUT	
1994	120
1995	2796
1996	4308
1997	4588
1998	6412
1999	5191
2000	4544
2001	4637
2002	4320
2003	1300
2004	UNACC*
2005	2620
2006	2880
2007	3471
2008	2200
TOTAL	49132

(*Funds unaccounted for due to unreported funds from Jacksonville ABCF)



“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.”

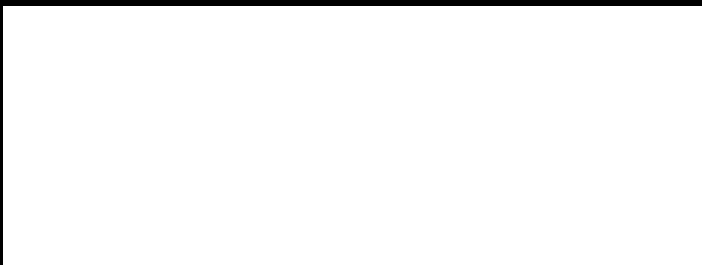
- Anti-Imperialist PP Tom Manning

What's the ABC? What's the ABCF? Who are Political Prisoners? Who are Prisoners of War? Where are they? Why make a criteria? What do you mean by 'documentation' and how do I get it? What kinds of support do Political Prisoners need? How should I go about my work? What can PP/POWs get in prison? What do I need to know if I want to visit? Can I bring them food packages? What about clothes? What do you mean by 'principled support'? How do I get involved?

This is a practical guide compiled by Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War themselves, based on concrete history and work experience. It will help answer all of the above questions and more. The ABCF guide to PP/POW includes 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, and the working policies of the ABCF in our work to support PP/POW's. Send \$1 and two stamps to:

ABCF-LA • PO Box 11223 • Whittier, CA • 90603

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



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