

FIRE ANT



ANARCHIST PRISONER SOLIDARITY

This issue of Fire Ant is dedicated to the memory and fighting spirit of Anna Mae Aquash.

This is issue #9, Spring 2021. Fire Ant is a collaboration between anarchist prisoners and free roaming anarchists. Fire Ant seeks to raise material aid for anarchist prisoners while fostering communication between anarchists on both sides of the walls.

To support the anarchist prisoner war fund, please email bloomingtonanarchistblackcross@riseup.net. All money will go directly to prisoners. The fund currently supports Michael Kimble, Jennifer Rose, Eric King, Sean Swain, and Marius Mason.

To download this publication, please go to bloomingtonabc.noblogs.org.

Front photo is of Marius Mason. Thanks to Ralph Franklin for the image. Back cover by Abraxas, supporters of Fire Ant, and the only bookstore in Maine to carry this publication.

Thanks to the Bloomington crew for all their hard work on this project! Thanks also to Michael, Jennifer, Marius, Eric, Noah, Thomas, Sean, Julio, Patrick, Rochelle, Pepe, Brandon Oden, SOLECAST, Argyle crew, TC from BC, Peter and Fifth Estate, the Burning Books crew, Lex from IWW, Little Black Cart, Gloo Factory, Final Straw radio, MJ from Idaho, the Squashed Crew, Matt D, Risa, Cal, Dave, Olivia, the Wabanaki People, Owl, Mini, Baba Yaga and the North Woods green anarchist horde.

-Fire Ant

Disclaimer

This publication is for entertainment purposes only. All opinions and views belong to the individual writers and do not represent other writers or anyone involved in the production or distribution of this publication.

Support the Clarion Book Project!

Prison seeks to isolate our friends behind walls both physical and psychological. Separated from loved ones, anarchist prisoners are removed from the daily dialogue and exchange of ideas that give birth to liberatory projects and experiments. Imprisoned anarchists will find very little in prison libraries and network television to keep them informed on outside struggles, and, in absence of comrades on the outside mailing in magazines and books, they are left without access to subversive literature of any kind.

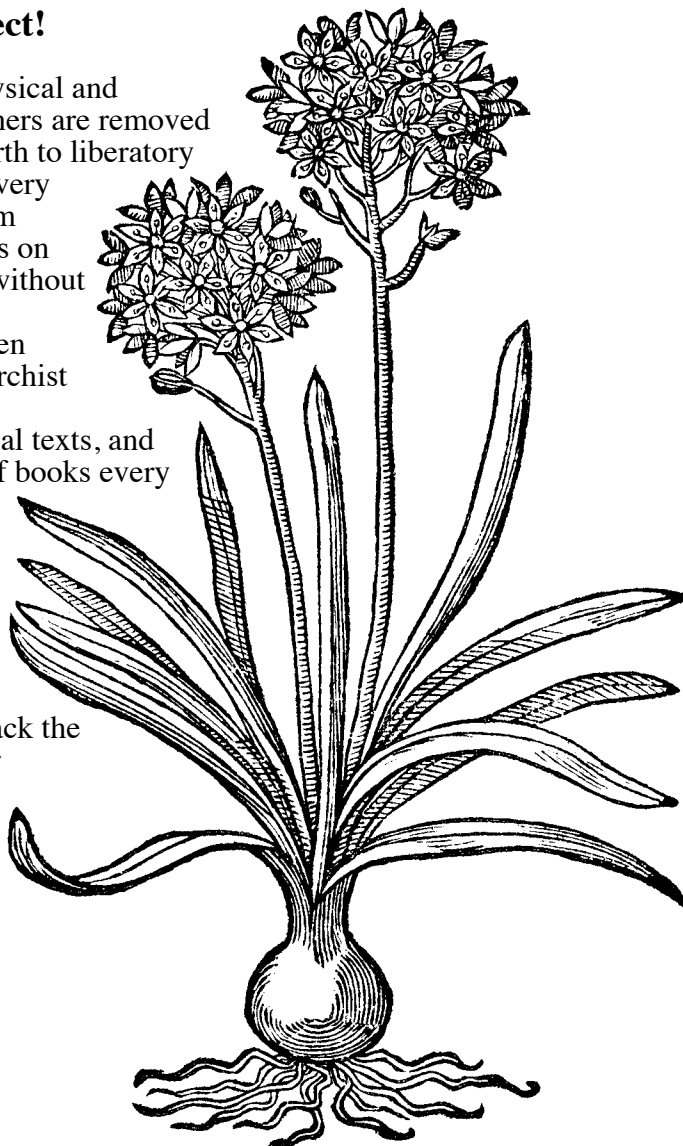
Since 2014, Bloomington Anarchist Black Cross has been sending monthly packages of literature to a handful of anarchist prisoners in the United States. These generally feature recently-published anarchist periodicals and zines, historical texts, and articles on current events. In addition, we send packages of books every other month. The project has fostered dialogue on current struggles, enabled US anarchist prisoners to express solidarity to anarchist prisoners around the world, and led to sharing of anarchist literature throughout the prisons where our friends are held captive.

While we have been happy to quietly work on this initiative without publicizing our efforts, we would like to expand its capacity. While we are able to print zines, we lack the funds to regularly purchase quality anarchist books for our imprisoned friends.

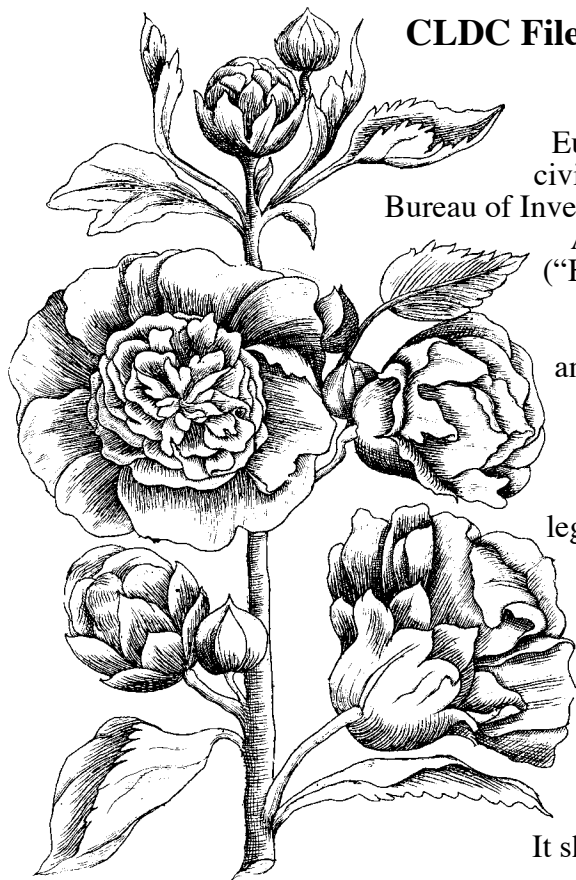
If you are an anarchist publisher who feels affinity with this project and would like to send us books for distribution to anarchist prisoners, please email us at bloomingtonanarchistblackcross@riseup.net.

We are in this for the long-haul, and appreciate the help with toner in our DNA,

Bloomington Anarchist Black Cross
bloomingtonabc.noblogs.org



CLDC Files Civil Rights Suit On Behalf of Anti-Racist Political Prisoner Eric King, May 25th, 2021



Eugene, OR -Today, the Civil Liberties Defense Center filed a federal civil rights lawsuit under Bivens v. Six Unnamed Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 403 U.S. 388 (1971), the Federal Tort Claims Act, and the Administrative Procedure Act, against the Federal Bureau of Prisons (“BOP”) and more than 40 of its correctional officers. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Eric King, whose constitutional rights have been continually violated since 2018 in retaliation for his political and anti-racist actions while incarcerated. The complaint alleges that BOP officers have collaborated with each other, and with white supremacist prisoners, to target, harass, and assault Mr. King. Moreover, King has been held in solitary confinement (the Special Housing Unit, or SHU) for over 1,000 days with no explanation or legal justification, in violation of BOP and federal statutory policy. He is currently one of only 80 people who have been held in the SHU for more than a year, let alone almost three years.

“I’m a human being with a family. I’ve been treated deplorably.

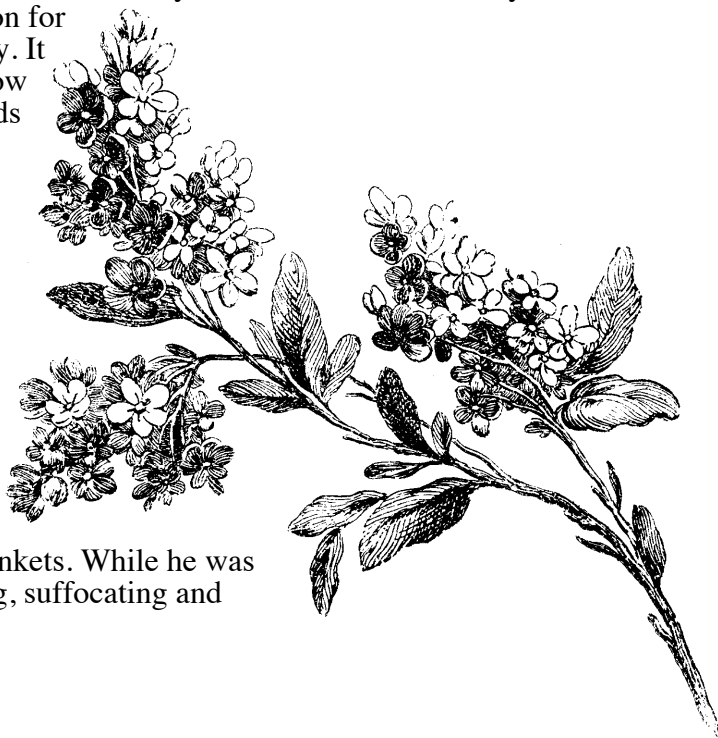
For the last two years I’ve been stuck in a 6' x 9' cage, denied access to my family and my lawyers, and subjected to physical and emotional torture. They’ve done this because of my beliefs, not because of my actions – not because I’m a violent person, but because I disagree with their government. They treat me like I am not a human, and in doing so they reveal they are the true monsters. It shows how horrible this system is, not how horrible I am,” King said.

Eric King is an anarchist political prisoner serving a 10-year sentence for attempted arson of a government official’s office in Kansas City, Missouri, in September 2014. He acted in solidarity with the Ferguson uprising and rebellion — a movement that took place over the summer of 2014 in response to the Ferguson police murder of Michael Brown. At his sentencing, Eric spoke on the record about his political motivations for committing his criminal act, saying “The government in this country is disgusting. The way they treat poor people, the way they treat brown people, the way they treat everyone that’s not in the class of white and male is disgusting, patriarchal, filthy, and racist.”

“Eric King has faced chronic, targeted harassment, as well as severe emotional and physical torture, from BOP officers and known white supremacists working together, for over two years while held in solitary confinement. We reasonably believe this treatment has been in retaliation for his political views and First Amendment-protected activity. It is not acceptable or constitutional, and CLDC will not allow Mr. King’s civil rights to be eviscerated. He justly demands basic human respect and decent conditions. This type of abuse is rampant across the BOP, and needs to be condemned, and the federal criminal punishment system must be held to account,” said Lauren Regan, one of Mr. King’s attorneys with the Civil Liberties Defense Center.

One incident of harassment and torture occurred in 2018, when King was ordered by correctional officers to a small storage room and office, where he was verbally and physically attacked.

In the aftermath of this attack, the guard claimed King had attacked him, and as a result, King was placed in restraints for over eight hours, without any clothing or blankets. While he was restrained, BOP guards further tortured him by threatening, suffocating and strangling him.



Update by Sean Swain April 29th, 2021

Several months into being blacksited in place here in Virginia, without even so much as a disciplinary charge, I filed a federal action. Shortly thereafter, the blacksite restrictions were lifted and my communications were restored.



Not sure, but what I experienced seems to be following a blueprint of how other radical prisoners are monitored, silenced, and tormented; leading me to think there's some kind of centralized coordination, like the continuation of the FBI's COINTELPRO. So, supporters filed a Freedom of Information request with the Virginia Department of Corrections.

They admit that, before my communications were suspended, the FBI exchanged several emails, some with attachments, with A. David Robinson, chief of corrections operations. They won't let us see those emails, so now we're going to the FBI with another FOIA. Robinson won't reveal his handler at the FBI. His email is david.robinson@vadoc.virginia.gov. He loves to hear how people feel about his complicity in an illegal COINTELPRO silencing of dissent.

Days after my communications were restored, the fartgoblins here stole a portion of my incoming legal mail, sent by my publishers' lawyers. As those materials are central to claims I'm filing in federal court, I requested an injunction. While that was pending, I repeatedly asked the fartgoblins to mail, at my expense, those stolen legal materials to the federal court. After all, the judge will be the one to decide whether I can have those - not some untrained, unelected, uneducated dimwit who works for VADOC because he or she can't find a real job.

Nobody would answer. They essentially refused to let the judge review the stolen legal documents. So, I filed a motion for the judge to send US Marshalls down here and take those materials.

What did the fascist fartgoblins do? They mailed the materials back to the lawyer. Or so they say. They did it without my consent while an injunction was pending - and they knew it.

I'm not sure, but I think there might be a whole lot of people in VADOC, when the smoke clears, wondering where their jobs went. Or, maybe not. I guess it depends on whether those COINTELPRO fuckweasles can turn the federal judge into their sock puppet. We'll see.

In the meantime, Lauren is trying to coordinate with other prisoner support to compare notes and see what patterns develop, and see what traces back to the FBI. Lauren, and the rest of my defense committee, can be reached at seanswaindefense@outlook.com.

Also, check out spiritofmandela.org, an effort to bring the US to trial for human rights abuses.

There's a new podcast, the first episode is an interview with me: archive.org/details/mke-lit-supply-ep-1. It discusses mental health and resistance, talks about the US domestic torture program, and how we can orient ourselves to confront state terrorism.

Anyone looking to help me get home can check out updates at seanswain.org, swainrocks.org, and @swainiac1969 on Instagram. I go up for parole in August with claims pending in international court exposing the US domestic torture program.

I need to get home.

Freedom!
Sean

Anarchist Solidarity to Prison Lives Matter! by Anarchist Prisoner Jennifer Rose, Co-Founder Fire Ant Collective

I write this to answer the call to action by Prison Lives Matter! as an anarchist prisoner and co-founder of Fire Ant (established 2017). While maintaining our autonomy and internationalist anarchist/ anti-authoritarian position against corrupt political parties and/or leadership vanguards, I nevertheless call on my comrades to support PLM by engaging in dialog and solidarity actions toward our common goals to abolish legalized slavery!

PLM's objective is to establish a revolutionary prison movement infrastructure. The purpose is to implement an effective overall strategy through a movement building network of regional organizing committees, for collaborative work with PLM national coordinating committee. This is a necessity, the need is obvious!

Every single prison should have a George Jackson University or a Kuwasi Balagoon Liberation School. Sometimes I like to ask myself, not "What would Jesus do?", but "What would Kuwasi do?". For those who don't know about our beloved revolutionary hero, he has been eulogized:

"He was an anarchist in a Black nationalist movement, he was queer in a straight-dominated movement, he was a guerrilla fighter before it was "chic", and he never backed down from his ideals, his beliefs, the struggle, or himself. And, he demanded to be seen, not as a revolutionary icon, but as a person, beautiful and flawed."

-Walidah Imarisha (from "Kuwasi at 60" by Kazembe Balagoon)

As anarchists, we can particularly support this statement by comrade Kwame "Beans" Shakur:

"Prison Lives Matter is not about "reforming" the existing system. Through this United Front... we will strive to expose the prison industrial slave complex's hidden political and economical position of hierarchy within the United States empire" (from "Prison COVID", Vol 1, No 2).

"In the spirit of Nelson Mandela" campaign calls for international agencies and courts to investigate the human rights' violations that exist within the United States prison system. These violations include the mass murder of nearly 3,000 incarcerated people over the past year, using methodic execution by COVID-19. This killed the most vulnerable, elderly, and chronically ill prisoners.

People should also take note of the torture claims against the U.S filed by Sean Swain (and myself). Under the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, currently pending trial (The InterAmerican Commission on Human Rights case # 14-146). To contact the IACHR to make claims or witness statements in corroboration of the above, write to:

InterAmerican Commission on Human Rights
Organization of American States
1889 F St NW
Washington, DC 20006
tel #: 202-370-9000
fax#: 202-458-3992
email: cidhoea@oas.org
website: cidh.org

We are our own liberators!
Solidarity to Prison Lives Matter!

Send all comments, criticism, and
correspondence to:
Jennifer Rose #E23852
Salinas Valley State Prison
PO Box 1050
Soledad, CA, 93960
email: jennirose@conpals.com
blog:
www.betweenthebars.org/blogs/490



STOP THE ILLUSION

Prisons are not operating to rehabilitate you, but to tame, train and punish. The truth is out there: Mass corruption is everywhere in Texas, especially in TDCJ, and you, the very one they call a "resident", is really a commodity. Your ID says "offender", instead of worker/slave. TDCJ has no real intention of fixing you. Out of 100 units you only have one mental health facility, which is constantly reached out to by extremes to gain respite from the real TDCJ agenda – to exploit you. Why is TDCJ perpeprating to support PREA when they are the very reason why people get sexually assaulted/harassed? TDCJ creates the conditions by oppressing you and your family by not allowing them to send money or friends, yet you are expected to make them hundreds of thousands of dollars every day because TDCJ is a for-profit business, and you are how.

I have to give you workers a bit of education. You can change it all; it's in our hands; we run the machines, the chow halls, laundries, every aspect of prison operation is dependent on us. Take workers power back into your hands. Stop the illusion. You are individuals with the most power, and I say unto the brothers: Collectively organized, we are unstoppable.

Development of organic ways to correct injustices o not lie in the hands of a peon warden or politician. It belongs to the community, the ones who are trying to help us now. The new culture of the criminal justice in place now is being taught here in TDCJ. "Strike First and Not Last". This was how the US Department of Labor would make observations of Mexicans in Arizona from 1907-1917. The working class was observed as a threat since before us. History is repeating itself. Just pay attention to what's happening in South Texas. "The problem with Mexicans is that strike comes first and not last." Again, this is exactly how I am working to emancipate my brothers and sisters "in white".

In 1905, Lucy Gonzales Parsons was fighting the same battle and made waves across the United Snakes of Amerika.

Lucy taught us:

"...and let me say to you brothers and sisters, remember that we are here as one brotherhood and one sisterhood, as one humanity, with a responsibility to the downtrodden and the oppressed of all humanity, it matters not under what flag or in what country they happen to be born in."

As she continues, she spoke on the issues of gender equality:

"We the women of this country have no ballot even if we wished to use it, and the only way that we can be represented is to take a man to represent us. You men have made such a mess of it in representing us that we have not much confidence in asking you, and I for one feel very backard in asking the men to represent me. We have no ballot, but we have our labor. We are exploited more ruthlessly than men. Wherever wages are to be reduced, the capitalist class use the women to reduce them, and if there is anything that you men should do in the future, it is to organize the women."

Brothers, as Texas Local Charter IWOC delegate, there is no doubt in my heart that our sisters in TDCJ need us. If the agency has you terrified of a bullshit disciplinary esac for free speech, can you imagine the mothers in TDCJ, threatened by removal from children they created. It goes deeper than this, but my point is, this union is for us to down the machine making millions upon millions on our blood and sweat.

Lucy Parsons goes on to say:

"The tools belong to the toiler. They are owned by the capitalist class. Do you believe they will allow you to go into the halls of the legislature and simply say, "Be it enacted, the capitalist shall no longer own the tools, and the factories and the places of industry, the ships that plow the oceans and our lakes?"

Do you think they will submit? I do not, hence when you roll under your tongue the expression that you are revolutionists, remember what that word means. It means a revolution that shall turn all these things over to where they belong – to the true producers of wealth.

A south Texan, speaking such beautiful words is just incredible, and like Lucy Parsons, I am a member of the IWW, and a delegate, as she was. Making the state of Texas tremble in fear with my organizing has been the greatest revenge I've ever imposed on an entity, a corrupt agency, and my hand is extended to all brothers, sisters, fellow Texans. Please, stop supporting and keeping alive those who aim to kill you. Stop and demand your rights. Join the One Big Union. Join us in Texas Local Charter-IWOC (Houston Branch) to end prison slavery and force parole legislation that is tangible for the workers of the state. We have the power. In solidarity we make it happen for ourselves. No reforms, no substituting one corruption for another. Abolition. Let the new become the new. We let TDCJ die because it has no place in a colorful world. Just look around you.

Bill "Big Bill" Haywood said:

"You all come to Amerika with the expectation of improving your conditions. You expected to find a land of the free, but you found we of Amerika were but economic slaves as you were in your own home. I come to extend to you tonight the hand of brotherhood with no thought to nationality. There is no foreigner here except the capitalist and he will not be a foreigner long, for we will make a worker of him. Do not let them divide you by sex, color, creed or nationality, for as you stand today you are invincible. The IWW is composed of different nationalities and with such a fighting committee you can beat "billy wood" [police repression]. Billy Wood can beat a Polishman, in fact he beat all the Polish, but he cannot beat all the nationalities put together. The foreign worker upon landing here is made to feel that he is inferior to the native product. The foreigner naturally resents being treated thus. At the same time, he cannot prove his equality or superiority because of the lack of dominating language. In IWW meetings the foreigner is at the same disadvantage and as a rule little attention is given him. If the agitator does not actually feel that foreigner is every bit as intelligent and revolutionary as the native, he had better not mingle with him. Yet the organizer who goes out of his way to make the foreign element at ease finds that he is given more hearty support than the natives show. If you are a wage worker you are welcome in the IWW halls, no matter what your color."

By this you may see that the IWW is not a white man's union, but a working man's union, all of the working class in One Big Union. Educate, organize, emancipate. My goals are for all men and women in TDCJ to understand the capitalist mindset and the tools and tactics they utilize to ensure the slaves stay terrorized and obedient. That way we will understand how to destroy it.

I am changing the "no win" policy by force. I've been alone for the whole first part, but I never gave up, and now that I have made my presence known, our business is to unite and organize, hit the most strategic areas of TDCJ's operations that are inmate run, and hand the reigns back to the oppressor. Let them slave the farm themselves while we speak our minds and bring our demands to fruition. The hard part is not uniting, it's organizing. We need to open as many lines of communication, so bring your family into it. Kids, wives, moms, pops, everyone.

For membership to Texas Local-IWOC, feel free to contact our facilities in Kansas City:

Briana Peril
PO Box 414304
Kansas City, MO 64141

Lets get it!

Solidarity,
Z, TLC-IWOC



Prisoner Support, Community, and Solidarity by Peter Werbe

It probably goes without saying that the words of the headline are strictly bound together as concepts. The Industrial Workers of the World, the IWW, had a slogan for this: “They’re in there for us. We’re out here for them.”

The Wobblies, as they are called (and who knows why since they are more steadfast in their opposition to the capital and the state than any American union ever), perfected the notion of solidarity and prisoner support deeply rooted in working class communities during the early part of the 20th century. They did so out of an ethical commitment to support political victims of the government, but also to assist their members who often ran afoul of the so-called law in their union organizing, strikes, and free speech campaigns. Their members were constantly being jailed, beaten, and fired.

IWW prisoner support was a necessity to defend against the bosses, goons, and cops who correctly saw the radical Wobs as a threat to the rule of exploitation and repression. Although still active, but diminished in size, they remain committed to One Big Union and the general strike.

Today, prisoner support is needed for the many class war anarchist prisoners who, without our support, remain isolated and at the mercy of their jailers. Greek political prisoner Tasos Theofilou calls the prison cell “a grave for the living.” This is in what people like Marius Mason, Eric King, Jennifer Rose, Michael Kimball, Sean Swain, Noah Coffin, Thomas Meyer-Falk, and countless others are entombed. Their breath of

fresh air comes with the letters we write, the books we send, the calls we make, and most importantly, our visits to them. Even with all of our campaigns of support, the majority of their time is spent in often atrocious, unhealthy conditions, served crappy food, humiliated constantly by the regimen of imprisonment, and subject to the whims of brutal guards.

It is amazing they don’t surrender and collapse emotionally. That they remain strong and resistant is a testimony to their personal fortitude, but each of them will tell you that it is us “out here” that also gives them confidence and strength.

Our efforts of support and solidarity also builds our individual communities as part of a larger world-wide one. Prisoner determination inside, nurtures ours outside. We know they are depending on us, and carrying that out means we build solidarity and community in our own lives. When we have a letter writing night, hold a fundraising house party or concert with local bands, organize an exhibit of prisoner art, or put out zines like Fire Ant, it brings people together knowing they are supporting those who this society designates as outlaws.

They are our comrades. We are theirs. We stand together against a oppressive system. The state repressive apparatus is highly organized to carry out its task of suppressing rebellion. We need to be similarly united in our opposition.

Peter Kropotkin, the famous Russian anarchist and political prisoner of the Czar almost 150 years ago, wrote: “The first duty of the revolution will be to abolish prisons—those monuments of human hypocrisy.”

Let’s make it so.

Peter Werbe is a staff member of the Fifth Estate magazine FifthEstate.org, and author of the recently published *Summer on Fire: A Detroit Novel*. PeterWerbe.com.

JUNE 11, 2021

International Day of Solidarity with Marius Mason & All Long-Term Anarchist Prisoners

AGAINST THE STATE, ITS PRISONS,
AND ITS POLICE



SOLIDARITY WITH ANARCHIST
PRISONERS
JUNE11.ORG

Against another year of state encroachment, against the restriction of free movement under the auspices of “safety,” against the continued brutalization of our friends in prison, we call for a renewal of solidarity on June 11, 2021: International Day of Solidarity with Marius Mason & All Long-Term Anarchist Prisoners. For 17 years, June 11th has been an occasion for celebration, mourning, and revolt. It has been a moment to breathe, to remember those fallen and those in cages, to remind ourselves of why we remain committed to the Beautiful Idea of anarchism. Through our letters, demonstrations, fundraising, and solidarity attacks we keep the beacon lit for those who have given years of their lives for their conviction that the State is a horror against which we must wager our lives.

MEMORY REMAINS A WEAPON

June 11th is, in the words of Christos Tsakalos, a day against oblivion. The architects of prison society would have prison function as a memory hole, casting our dear rebels into the void and producing in free souls a stifling

amnesia. They want us to forget those who took action against the state and economy and those who continue their rebellion behind bars. Our work of solidarity with imprisoned anarchists is a hammer blow against forgetting: against the prison walls and the narcotizing technological society that shatters all meaning.

As such, we remember not only our friends behind bars, but those who have died. Marilù Maschietto in Italy. Former political prisoner Alexei “Socrates” Sutuga in Russia. Robert D’Attilio, who kept alive the memory of Sacco & Vanzetti. Doris Ensinger, whose decades of activity as a subversive, organizer, and author stretches from the student revolt of the ’60s to the present. Tireless anarchist abolitionist Karen Smith. Lucio Urtubia, whose life of expropriation in service of struggle remains an inspiration.

Finally: Stuart Christie. Stuart’s life and example cast a massive shadow in our efforts. From his time as a young prisoner in Franco’s Spain and his reanimation of the Anarchist Black Cross in the 1970s, to his persecution in the Angry Brigade trials and work in archiving anarchist history through Cienfuegos Press and Christie Books, Stuart’s tireless work will not be forgotten. He and all of our fallen companions, whether we knew them personally or not, are alive in spirit in our work this year.

TO COMBAT THE PRESENT ORDER

Prison administrations around the world have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by implementing lockdowns and banning in-person visits, building upon prior movement to replace face-to-face visits with video chat. Physical mail is also threatened, with the United States federal prison system initiating a program to scan letters and make them only accessible on expensive tablets provided by a contracted company, Smart Communications. This allows for easier surveillance and is lucrative for Smart Communications, who can charge exorbitant rates for access to its services. It’s likely that this trend will continue in prisons around the world. With the pandemic as an alibi, prison administrations and profiteering companies have accelerated the abolition of direct human connection and the shifting of prisoners’ lives into the techno-sphere. Anarchist prisoners have been on the

forefront of opposition to this regime of control, with anarchist prisoner Mónica Caballero going on hunger strike in 2020 to demand restoration of in-person visits.

REBELLION & REACTION

A year after George Floyd was murdered, our context is still strongly infused by the surge of protests, riots, and organizing that followed. In addition to the new energy, friendships, and practices that came out of the uprising, the repression that followed will affect us and our struggles for years to come. Over 13,000 arrests were made, with at least a few hundred state-level felony cases and over 325 federal cases. An unknown number have already taken pleas or are still incarcerated pretrial. Those arrested include all kinds of people: some young, some old; some long-term activists, some newly radicalized; some very connected to movements or struggles, and some very isolated. Existing bail funds and jail support projects have greatly expanded their reach, and many new ones have popped up all over the country. And some have already begun to contract, due to activity in the streets slowing down and from over-work in unsustainable models. These are part of the same continuum of anti-repression as supporting our long-term prisoners.

Some uprising defendants will most likely end up serving long prison sentences. While both immediate jail support and long-term prisoner support continue, we are now in a collective transition period between the two. Bail/jail support, court support, and prisoner support must all be done in a way that makes us stronger instead of draining us. Some connections have already begun to be made between movement prisoners and the uprising in the streets. Jeremy Hammond and friends recorded a video of a small protest and message of solidarity from Grady County Jail. Former black liberation political prisoner Dhoruba Bin-Wahad spoke about a BLM that means Black Liberation Movement and the importance of political education. This year, we seek to deepen the connection between different aspects of anti-repression, to bring the names and the wisdom of our long-term prisoners into current struggles – whether that’s in the streets against the police, in the forest against pipelines, or in the night against monuments of power – and strengthen networks and practices to support more comrades going to prison.

GIVE FLOWERS TO THE REBELS CAGED

The past year has given us the release of two long-term

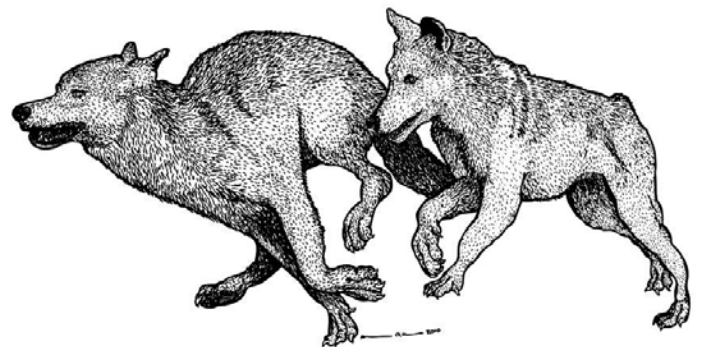
anarchist prisoners in the United States: Jeremy Hammond and Jay Chase. In Spain, anarchist Lisa was released on parole in April 2021. We send love and fraternal greetings to all of them as they adjust to a new terrain of life.

Sadly, many of our comrades remain behind bars, and for them we continue to fight. Eric King awaits trial (currently set for October 2021) for an incident in which he was assaulted in prison. Michael Kimble and Jennifer Rose both had their parole rejected. Sean Swain has been forced again to fight the perennial restrictions on his communications by the prison authorities.

Marius Mason continues to struggle through another year of imprisonment and could always use letters and printed articles to keep him connected to the world outside. He, like others in the US prison system, has not had an in-person visit in over a year. Marius is currently taking correspondence courses to become a paralegal. The pandemic has limited fundraising opportunities, and donations can help offset this change.

At least six anarchists have been imprisoned as the Belarusian state continues to repress the 2020-2021 uprising. They include Dmitry Dubovsky, Igor Olinevich, Sergei Romanov, Dmitry Rezanovich, Mikola Dziadok, and Akihiro Gaevsky-Hanada, many of whom have been imprisoned before.

free all
anarchist
prisoners



In Greece, anarchists and others took part in bold attacks on corporate and state targets in solidarity with Dimitris Koufontinas, an imprisoned Communist urban guerrilla who began a hunger strike earlier this year. The anarchist prisoners Giannis Dimitrakis and Nikos Maziotis went on hunger strike in solidarity with him for over a month to help generate solidarity.

Mónica Caballero and Francisco Solar were again arrested in July 2020, this time facing charges related to incendiary attacks on government ministers and a real estate company. They, along with other prisoners, began a hunger strike on March 22, 2021 demanding the repeal of extremely punitive measures against prisoners. They also demanded the release of autonomous prisoner Marcelo Villarroel as well as the Mapuche, anarchist, and subversive prisoners.

In Italy, Nicola Gai was finally released from prison, while Anna Beniamino and Alfredo Cospito have been sentenced to 16 and 20 years respectively for allegedly taking part in bombing attacks associated with the Informal Anarchist Federation (FAI). In 2020, anarchist prisoners Beppe and Davide Delogu began a hunger strike in response to punitive measures taken against them by prison administrators and were soon joined by other anarchist prisoners.

June 11th comes from a legacy of defense of animals, the earth, and the wild. While we do not seek to ascribe our anarchism to them, we support land defenders and water protectors on their own terms. Red Fawn Fallis, in federal prison on charges related to opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline, was released last year. Rattler, another No DAPL prisoner, was released to a halfway house early this year. Until his recent release, water protector Steve Martinez was held in federal detention for refusal to cooperate with a grand jury. Some of the Kings Bay Plowshares sit now in prison cells for their radical Christian witness against the horrors of nuclear war and omnicide.

We condemn the repressive operations against anarchists in the UK and worldwide counter-information networks. The raid on the nostate.net servers by the Dutch state is a blatant attack on international communication and solidarity. As with previous attacks on counter-information and prisoner solidarity projects, the state's actions make clear that combative solidarity with prisoners and coordination of informal attack are a danger to order. The police thugs would have us shrink back from solidarity in the

face of their persecution, but we refuse. We stand in full solidarity with those facing repression in the UK as well as the comrades of 325, Anarchist Black Cross Berlin, Northshore Counter-Info, Montreal Counter-Info, and Act for Freedom Now.

We also want to express solidarity with those outside of self-identified anarchists and those taking part in social struggles. We see anarchy as a tension through which we strive in daily life. This leads us to look beyond the world of official struggles and anarchist milieus, and to find anarchy and subversion throughout the world more broadly.

People everywhere act anarchically, including many who are currently imprisoned. These are not necessarily special people to romanticize, bulldozers of revolt in all aspects of life. We don't pretend that everyone is a secret anarchist who, when psychic repression is removed, will flower as such. People may act in a way we find beautiful one moment but then do something we disagree with the next. We still express solidarity with these people because they engage in acts of refusal and revolt. We see anarchy not as a pure identity that fixates on special people, but instead as a spirit that emerges from activity that opens space for freedom and community. As anarchists, we share in the joys and difficulties of freedom, its contradictions and complications. We are not above others, pure arbiters of freedom, but individuals capable of the most cowardly submission and the most audacious rebelliousness. Rather than worship those who appear to embody our values the most, we will instead tend to the fire of anarchy wherever we find it.

ABOLITION, AND OTHER SLIPPERY WORDS

Despite the mainstreaming of prison abolition, well over 10 million people are currently locked in the world's dungeons, a figure rising faster than increases in population. At the same time that we have seen the idea of abolition generalize, we have also seen it mutilated. While this has largely related to the abolition of police, the same distortions must be challenged in discourse on prison abolition. The city of Camden, New Jersey "abolishing" their police department in 2013 was touted as a successful example that other cities could follow to address a racist and violent police force, but the city police department was merely replaced with a county one. This is not abolition. Just as decreased funding or fewer police are not abolition; as civilian review boards have not and will not hold anyone accountable; as less money, fewer COs, or over-

sight committees will not abolish prisons. We know that police and prisons cannot be abolished from this society: they need each other. Political prisoners, prison rebels, and those who refuse to submit will be some of the last to be granted the reprieves from the state that come from reforms. When we say we want “abolition,” we mean we want police, prisons, and the society that necessitates them to cease to exist.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

We stand at a crossroads. Do we allow anarchism to become flat and colorless, a new word to describe an old corpse? Do we evaporate into vague leftism and its tired theater of activism? Do we surrender our principles – solidarity, mutual aid, direct action, cooperation – to the new managers of revolt?

Or do we keep to our own light, our own vision, our own project? June 11th remains a light in the darkness: for our comrades in prison, but also for us. Our work renews our fidelity to freedom and a life in common. It affirms to us, in our doubt and confusion, that anarchy lives in our day to day lives and connects us to a rich and vibrant history of free spirited revolt. It asserts that anarchy will be combative or it will be dead. Solidarity with anarchist prisoners is not, for us, a humorless endeavor, a duty-infected routine. It is generative play and the substantiation of free community. Will you join us?

FREEDOM FOR ANARCHIST PRISONERS



Any person, at any time, alone or with others, is capable of making their own theoretical or practical contribution toward contesting the diffuse network of control that constantly expands around us. The state increases its hold on our lives through more prisons, security cameras and immigrant detention centers, and more efficient policing tactics, all interconnected to streamline exploitation. The deck is stacked against us, but subversive acts against the repressive machine continue.

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PROJECTUALITY =/= PROTESTANT WORK ETHIC

It would be easy to write another rah-rah cheerleading article about prisoner support, why I do it, and why you should too. I've written those same paragraphs dozens of times and I'm sick of repeating myself. I want, instead, of speak more candidly. I say none of the following to disparage anyone doing this work; however grumpy I may be, I respect anyone dedicating their time to supporting prisoners. These are observations based on my own experiences: I don't believe I'm alone in these feelings, and hope that putting them on paper can help me and maybe others.

The "prisoner support weirdos" of the anarchist scene have a reputation for being humorless, overly serious workaholics: a not-unfair characterization of many of us. Prisoner support easily leads to burnout, cynicism, or duty-bound self-righteousness. Repeatedly failing to free prisoners – or even prevent egregious brutalization by prison authorities and reactionaries – and facing an apathetic political climate leads one to armor oneself in ideas of self-sacrifice and moral obligation, in order to fight off doubt. This does not produce free-spirited individuals, but turns us into stubborn, long-suffering zealots.

I've found myself cycling through periods of despair at my failure to free my friends inside, anger at anarchists for "not doing enough" to support prisoners, frustrated disagreement with others doing prisoner support work, and manic activity in service of the imprisoned. I've let these negative tendencies win out more often than I'd like to admit, been terribly dogmatic in my anarchism, shamed others for their "inactivity," and embodied a fanaticism best left to religious extremists. None of this has brought anyone closer to freedom, but has made the horizon of anarchy retreat farther into the distance.

I want to see more discussion among us about how emotionally taxing this work is, how stifling it can be to one's ability to think playfully and creatively, how draining it is on the day-to-day. We're afraid to admit this, I think, because it is seen as complaining when we're merely "fulfilling our obligation to the struggle." This doesn't do anyone any good, least of all our friends in prison.

In the wider anarchist world, I don't think those who don't have family or friends in prison understand how exhausting it can be to share in the daily struggles of those suffering the naked brutality of the state. My advice to those whose friends are involved in supporting prisoners is to check in with them sometimes and acknowledge that their projects are not abstract political stances that they can pick up or put down whenever it's convenient, but human relationships under constant stress and trauma. Even if you aren't going to write to prisoners yourself, show interest in the hard work it takes to sustain long-term prisoner support projects; these don't appear out of thin air, it's your friends' lives that animate them. If people who do the unglamorous, often invisible work can't receive support (or even interest) from those close to them, there's no hope for the Beautiful Idea.

If we can develop alternative, nurturing ways to persisting in our projects, perhaps there won't be such a revolving door in prisoner support work. If we can approach each other with more care and understanding and recognition of pain, perhaps it won't be the same few dozen people running themselves ragged supporting prisoners for decades. I can't answer the why of things anymore, but I've committed myself to a lifetime of beautiful failure for the Ideal, and concern myself now with the how of it all.

an anarchist
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SOLIDARITY WITH THE TORTURED ANARCHISTS & ANTI-FASCISTS IN RUSSIA

Starting in October 2017, the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) kidnapped six people in Penza, planting weapons in their cars and using torture to force them to sign forged confessions admitting to membership in an invented "terror network." Arrestees were beaten, hung upside down, and electrocuted. At the end of January 2018, two more antifascists were arrested in St. Petersburg and subjected to the same treatment. In response to solidarity actions in Moscow and Chelyabinsk, additional activists have been arrested, tortured with electrical shocks, and criminally charged. These arrests are part of a larger crackdown preceding the 2018 presidential elections and the World Cup.

For years, police agencies around the world have attempted to fabricate conspiracies in order to frame anarchists as participants in nationwide or global terrorist networks. All of these attempts have been dismal failures. Now, the Russian security services have introduced an innovation that they hope will finally make this strategy succeed. If this approach works, other police agencies across the world will begin to utilize the same tactics.

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