

ABCF

UPDATE

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ABCF



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Summer 2007 *"Any movement that does not support their political internees is a sham movement." - O. Lutalo* Issue #48

RACIST JUSTICE IN JENA



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)

The ABCF is:

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ABCF GROUPS

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New Issue of 4strugglemag

Issue #9 Out Now! Writings by Political Prisoners and edited by Jaan Laaman. Available online at: www.4strugglemag.org.

Writers include: Jaan Laaman, Judy Greenspan, Mike Novick, Russell Shoatz, etc.

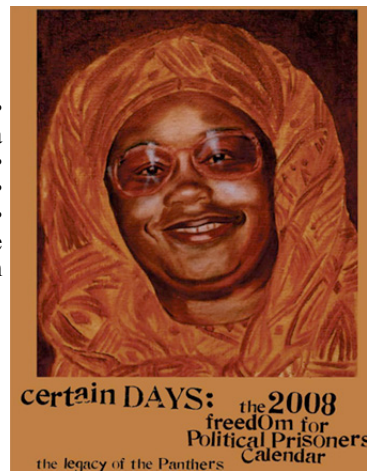
Paper copies are available (four dollars, free to prisoners) by emailing montrealabcf@gmail.com

or writing to:
4strugglemag
P.O. Box 42053
Succ. Jeanne Mance
Montreal QC H2W 2T3 Canada

2008 Freedom for PP/POWs Calendar

Herman Bell • Mumia Abu-Jamal • Laura Whitehorn • Gord Hill • Mirna Abdo • Joy James • Jonah Fertig • Daniel McGowan • Tom Manning • Ashanti Alston • Robert Seth Hayes • Assata Shakur • David Gilbert • Claude Marks • Noam Chomsky • Sofiyah Elijah • Safiysh Bukhari • and more!

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ISSUE #48 Summer 2007

NEWS FROM THE FRONT

Death Penalty Trial for Zolo

Thursday, May 10, 2007 the Indiana Supreme Court reversed Boone County Superior Court Judge Steve David's ruling that barred the state of Indiana from pursuing the death penalty in the case of Zolo Azania. Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter appealed Judge David's ruling, which resulted in oral arguments before the Indiana Supreme Court on June 27th, 2006. Zolo, who was convicted of murder in 1982, has spent the last 26 years in Indiana prisons, most of that time on death row. The Indiana Supreme Court has twice overturned Zolo's death penalty verdict, due to prosecution's suppression of evidence favorable to the defendant, ineffective assistance of counsel, and systematic exclusion of African Americans from the jury pool. CONTACT: Howard Emmer 773-425-6716

Daniel McGowan Transferred

Daniel McGowan, eco-prisoner serving 84-months for his participation in various ELF actions, has been transferred to USP Sandstone in Minnesota. McGowan has been to at least five federal detention centers in the last month. But now it seems like this may be McGowan's home for a while.

For now Daniel can be contacted at the following address:

Daniel McGowan
63794-053
FCI Sandstone
Post Office Box 1000
Sandstone, Minnesota 55072

Kamau Sadiki Seriously Ill

Kamau Sadiki -Former Black Panther, a.k.a. Fred Hilton #115 06 88 is seriously ill and incarcerated in Augusta State Medical Prison. Apparently there has been a change where inmates are not allowed to sleep over 8 hours on weekends or holidays. This has had a negative impact on his and other prisoners' health. He is taking a stand against this injustice and is sending out an urgent call that all of us notify the administration to voice our indignation and concern. I urge you to please pass this on to our friends and comrades.

Augusta State Medical Prison
3001 Gordon Highway
Grovetown, GA 30813

Dr. Mutulu Shakur Moved

We have learned that Dr. Mutulu Shakur has been moved again! As many of you know, in mid-March Dr. Shakur was moved in the middle of the night out of USP Coleman in Florida and transferred to USP Pollock in Louisiana, followed by

transfers to Atlanta and Oklahoma before ending up at USP Florence in Colorado. We will update you as soon as we have more information:

You can write to Mutulu at:

Dr. Mutulu Shakur #83205-012
P.O. Box 8500
Florence, CO 81226
USP Florence Admax

Jamil Al Amin Transferred

Imam Jamil Al-Amin has been transferred to Federal prison after the state of Georgia stated Al-Amin's case to be too difficult for them to handle. While there was know clarity about the meaning of the statement, it is clear that this move has taken Al-Amin from his support base.

Al-Amin's new location is at the notorious ADX Florence in Colorado. Florence is designed for high-security prisoners. Many of the political prisoners we support have reluctantly called this place home.

Jamil's new address is the following:

Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin #99974-555
USP Florence ADMAX
P.O. Box 8500
Florence, CO 81226

William Gilday Seriously Ill

Supporters of William 'Lefty' Gilday have received letters from him indicating he has fallen ill. Recent visits have confirmed Gilday's statements. According to reports Lefty has lost about 100 lbs in recent months.

Lefty was supposed to get his pacemaker fixed months ago, but he is still waiting.

Members of Boston Jericho are trying to get attorney visits in hopes of having Lefty sign a medical release form. The form would allow a Jericho Boston member and doctor to represent and advocate Lefty on medical issues.

There is talk among supporters about the possibility of getting a commutation of sentence, based on his age and medical condition (Lefty is 78), and also possibly based on some serious wrongdoing during his trial. Supporters are beginning to reach out to lawyers and are researching the possibilities. If there is no progress with the doctor, call-in/write-in campaign will be announced. For right now, sending Lefty get-well and solidarity cards is definitely needed. He can barely write though, so you may not get a quick response.

Gilday's address:

William 'Lefty' Gilday
P.O. Box 1218
Shirley, MA 01464-1218
MCI Shirley

Seven Arrested in Germany

On July 30-31, seven were arrested after a year-long investigation. Three of the activists were arrested while allegedly attempting to set fire to four army trucks in Bradenburg. The other four were arrested while in their homes. All have been accused of "belonging to a terrorist organization", Militante Gruppe, as well as the involvement in attempted arson attack.

Germany Wants McAliskey

A defense lawyer has told an extradition hearing in Belfast that County Tyrone woman Roisin McAliskey was not in Germany at the time she was allegedly involved in an explosion there.

The IRA bombed a British Army base in Germany in 1996 and Ms. McAliskey, a daughter of former civil rights leader. Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, is being sought by the authorities there to stand trial.

Roisin McAliskey, now 35, was three months pregnant ten years ago when she was first arrested because of a German extradition warrant.

She was released from Holloway prison just in time to give birth to her daughter, whereupon she was sent to a psychiatric hospital.

The British home secretary, Jack Straw, then ruled out extradition on health grounds.

The Crown Prosecution Service examined the case and found that there was no prospect of a conviction.

Despite that, the German authorities are again seeking her extradition but her lawyer said on August 22 that she was working in the North at the time of the IRA bombing.

Spokane Anarchist on Trial

The FBI have accused Travis Riehl of vandalizing a pair of recruiting stations in October of 2005. Riehl is a member of Spokane Lack of Action Collective (SLAC), a group that advocates non-violent property destruction.

The attacks involved throwing a rock through the Air National Guard's window and spraypainting the words "leave us alone" as well as an anarchy symbol on another window at the North Washington recruiting station.

Agents recovered a Fuji Film Finepix 2600 camera from Riehl's home. The FBI claim the camera was used to take pictures of the destruction of the recruiting offices.

Feds also secretly recorded Riehl at his home allegedly admitting responsibility for the actions as well as knowing those who set a Humvee on fire at a dealership in 2004. The Earth Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the action.

Travis Riehl will stand trial in October for the attacks on the recruiting offices.

Fred Burton Still Battling the Courts

On July 10th attorneys for Fred 'Muhammad' Burton (Philly 5), presented oral arguments to the Pennsylvania Superior Court. The arguments were over an appeal filed earlier this year, citing fraud in his original trial. Muhammad's lawyer, Jonathan Gettleman said this is unusual for the courts to take this step in a PCRA filing, given the time for filing an appeal is long past. Usually the courts will reject anything filed past the 1-year time bar, but obviously the brief filed by Jonathan has raised some serious issues of fraud committed by the Commonwealth. The court's decision is expected in within the next couple months.

FAMILY PORTRAIT: Discussing his father's potential release, Frederick Burton Jr. says "it's time to set the record straight."

On an August night 37 years ago, two police officers pulled their cruiser into a Cobbs Creek guard house at 63rd and Catharine streets. A young man flagged them down. It looked like he needed help.

Instead, the man jogged up to the passenger window, pulled out a handgun and lodged a bullet into one of the officers' jaws. His partner jumped from the car, opened fire and called for backup. An officer from a nearby precinct heard the call and radioed Fairmount Park Police Sgt. Frank Von Colln, who was in the guardhouse. They wanted to know what the trouble was. "I'm not sure," said Von Colln, 42. "Through the crackling radio came the sounds of several more gunshots. Someone else snuck in and pumped five bullets into an unarmed Von Colln," it was an ambush, planned by several men on a remote police substation."

Two years and three months later, Judge Peter Hagen Jr. gave the jury some very pointed instructions before they were asked to decide if Frederick Burton was guilty of Von Colln's murder: "If you reject the testimony of Mrs. [Marie] Williams, the prosecution's star witness, to the effect that the defendant was one of six men who conspired to kill policemen, then the Commonwealth's case against this defendant falls, and he must be found not guilty."

Burton's conviction hinged on Williams' testimony. The jury believed her.

Three years into Burton's life sentence, he got into more trouble. While in Holmesburg Prison in 1973, Burton and a fellow inmate set up a meeting with two wardens to arrange for an Islamic prayer room. When the request was denied, they attacked and killed the wardens with

sharpened kitchen knives. Burton, 27 at the time, was convicted of second-degree murder. He is now at the State Correctional Institution in Somerset.

"Two families were devastated by this murder: ours and the Von Collns. Two families grew up without a father around. But it's time to set my father's record straight."
-Fredrick Burton Jr.

Since then, Burton's lawyers have filed dozens of challenges to Burton's original conviction. All have been rejected. But last week, one finally stuck.

Recently, Burton's fiancée, Ethel Paris, and friend Lee Wells found two documents while rooting through dusty court records that never came up during trial: a letter from Williams to the district attorney and her sworn statements during a closed immunity hearing. Williams said in both documents that her testimony against Burton was coerced.

In July, Jonathan Gettleman, Burton's current attorney, will argue that these documents should become evidence, even though the 60-day time frame for using them has expired. The result could breathe new life into Burton's case and spur more hearings. "These are documents the government suppressed," Gettleman says. "While we knew during the trial that Williams lied, this shows the extent of her lies and the extent that the government coerced her to tell those lies."

During the original nine-day trial, the case against Burton rested on several pieces of evidence: first were spent cartridges, a 9-mm shell and homemade grenade found in Burton's home, similar to those at the scene. The second was Williams, who told the jury she heard six men, including Burton, talk about "eliminating pigs" in her West Philly basement during a meeting of an alleged offshoot of the Black Panther Party. Between Aug. 30 and Dec. 7, 1972, Williams flipped her story at least four times, according to official documents. Sometimes, Burton was at the meeting. Other times, he wasn't. Still other times, she said she never overheard

the conversation.

District Attorney's Office Spokeswoman Cathie Abookire, however, isn't buying it. "The Von Colln case has been reviewed by a dozen courts, all of which have rejected his claims. There's nothing new here," she says.

Even so, Burton will soon return to court for the first time in 20 years. The decision to hold the hearings in July, made by a three-judge appellate panel in Superior Court, has quietly resurrected the most trying of times for two very different families.

Since Von Colln's murder, his son Kurt and daughter Barbara Grimes have both joined and retired from the police force. "My father was called the 'gentle giant,'" says Kurt Von Colln. "He kept his gun in a drawer. He played basketball with the neighborhood kids on his breaks. That's the man who was taken away."

As for Burton, Gettleman says, "We're not trying to make sure everyone knows he's the best human being on Earth. We're just making sure everyone knows he's served his time." If his long-shot legal maneuverings result in exoneration, Gettleman thinks Burton has already served his time for murdering the warden and will walk free.

Meanwhile, Burton's son, Frederick Burton Jr., who lives in a one-room apartment near 16th and Master streets, is ecstatic. "Two families were devastated by this murder: ours and the Von Collns," he says. "Two families grew up without a father around. But it's time to set my father's record straight."



Rod Coronado Trial Ends in Deadlock

After more than two full days of deliberation, a 12-person jury informed Judge Jeffrey Miller they were hopelessly deadlocked. Attorneys were informed that the majority was voting for acquittal of the environmental / animal activist.

The case stems from a talk Coronado gave in San Diego on Aug. 1, 2003, about 15-hours after Earth Liberation Front burned an under-construction University City condo complex to the ground. Coronado did more than four years in prison for destroying buildings and equipment at numerous fur farms in the early 1990s, and he served as a spokesperson for various militant environmentalist groups, including ELF.

Attorney Tony Serra, part of Coronado's legal team stated, if these prosecutors opt to re-try this case, then they are the puppets we know they are, in the business of suppressing Constitutional rights. We hung the jury probably 10-2 or 9-3 (that specific information was not available from the jurors), so we know they can never win. So they would be fools to retry, but this is political and their agenda is political. If they re-try, we will win again.



Important Message from Leonard Peltier

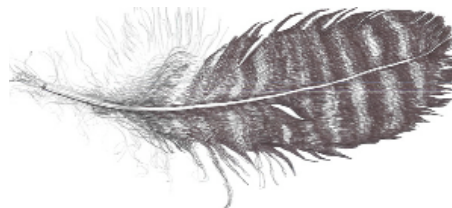
Greetings My Relatives,

You know I was just thinking there should be a degree one could receive for having expertise on doing prison time. I think I would be called Professor Peltier, PhD. with 30 years tenure. A friend of mine said once, PhD where he is from stands for post hole digger. I think I would at this time, embrace being a post hole digger, although I don't relish the thought of fencing anything in after being fenced in myself for 30 + years.

On being imprisoned, I want to touch on that subject a bit. There are some who have voiced their opinion in one way or another, that I should give up after all these years of trying to win my freedom. Aside from the oppressors who put me here, some of them are people who were at times, part of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee; others, on the fringes. My answer, to put it in a simple, colloquial phrase, that anyone can understand, it ain't gonna happen! There are many reasons, both physical and mental, spiritual and social. The number one reason is that there aren't any women in here. That should cover the social. Eh!

Another reason is that the struggle is not just about me. It's about life on earth, the struggle to survive, the onslaught of destructive technology, wealth mongering, by those who see the common man as nothing more than expendable beings to further their personal quest for power and affluence. I am here because, as a common man, along with other common men, I chose to try to stop the exploitation of my people. I know the Creator sent other common men at other times and other places and to other races to do the same. I am honored to be among common men. I know they tried to cause us to separate from alliances by

color, religion, and geographic locale but our struggle is the same. It's against people taking more than they need. In my culture it is taught that you should not take more than you need. In Christianity, Buddhism, and Zen, as well as most other spiritual teachings, it is taught that gluttony is a sin. Violation of this teaching is the reason for global warming, and the reason for world wars, including the war in Iraq at this time.



Because of people who always seek to take more than they need, my people have suffered greatly. They are the poorest of the poor yet most still cling to the original teachings. They have fought for several generations for the exploitation of our land, illegal occupation of our land, unjust treatment in the U.S. judicial system, and most of all, government lies and liars that have led the American people to believe all this exploitation and violation of treaties is in their best interest. I watch TV from time to time, and I notice there are those who try to make the wars like a war between religions. I tell you my relatives, it is only a ruse to get young men to die for those who crave wealth and power over the common man.

If the many denominations of religions would stand together as one against the violation that jeopardizes life itself, it would make a major difference throughout the world. Today, more than any other time

in history, you are either part of the problem or part of the solution. I may, by now, have written more than you care to read. But, from where I sit myself, it's the best I can do. The Defense Committee that bears my name struggles to help enlighten people of events and needs of people in jeopardy. I don't use the word struggle lightly. Aside from trying to raise money for attorneys and office expenses, etc., we raise money for food and clothing for needy people on reservations in urban areas. In my world, the poor are common. I am honored to be one of them, to represent them from time to time, though it be from afar. We as Native People look to the Creator's greatest manifestation for teachings, Mother Earth and her system of nature, along with personal visions, from time to time. In that, we see grass though encased in concrete, pushing its way through the cracks. We see the trees and water break down the structures of man that imprison them. We see everywhere, all life trying to follow the original instruction given by the Creator. If I were a blade of grass, I would grow out of here. If I were water, I would flow away from here. If I were a ray of light, I would bounce off these walls and be gone. However, I am not and unless I, at some future time, receive my freedom that was unjustly taken in the same manner as was the freedom of so many Native People before me. I can only leave here through my paintings, written words, and some other forms of communication that are sometimes available. I am in my 60's now. If I end up spending all my days body flows to the sea, and the elements of my being make the grass grow and the trees flourish, make no mistake they can kill my body but they can't kill me. I am a common man.

The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee will continue working on my behalf and towards my freedom unless you the supporters tell me to close down the Defense Committee. Having said all this, I wish to ask you, if you can in any way help us, meaning the Defense Committee, send any donation to:

Leonard Peltier Defense Committee
3800 N. Mesa A2
El Paso, Texas 79902

Pease do so, it is a common cause. If my case stands as it is, no common person has real freedom. Only the illusion until you have something the oppressors want. Back to being a post hole digger.. I'd rather be a free post hole digger than Professor

Leonard Peltier, PhD.

May the Creator bless you with all you need.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse, who never gave up. All my relations,

Leonard Peltier #89637-132
USP LewisburgPA
PO Box 1000
LewisburgPA 17837

Update on San Francisco 8 Case

Eight former Black Panthers were arrested January 23rd in California, New York and Florida on charges related to the 1971 killing of a San Francisco police officer. Similar charges were thrown out after it was revealed that police used torture to extract confessions when some of these same men were arrested in New Orleans in 1973.

Richard Brown, Richard O'Neal, Ray Boudreaux, and Hank Jones were arrested in California. Francisco Torres was arrested in Queens, New York. Harold Taylor was arrested in Florida. Two men charged – Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim – have been held as political prisoners for over 30 years in New York State prisons. A ninth man -- Ronald Stanley Bridgeforth – is still being sought. The men were charged with the murder of Sgt. John Young and conspiracy that encompasses numerous acts between 1968 and 1973.

Harold Taylor and John Bowman (recently deceased) as well as Ruben Scott (thought to be a government witness) were first charged in 1975. But a judge tossed out the charges, finding that Taylor and his two co-defendants made statements after police in New Orleans tortured them for several days employing electric shock, cattle prods, beatings, sensory deprivation, plastic bags and hot, wet blankets for asphyxiation. Such "evidence" is neither credible nor legal.

Since the arrests earlier this year, four of the men have been released on bail. It is expected that two others will be released soon. Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim are not eligible for bail because of their prior convictions.

Court dates thus far have been held to dispute bail amounts. The DA has used the testimony of Ruben Scott as a reason for high bail. Scott's testimony was proven to be perjurious in the past. Scott has recanted cooperative testimony by explaining that he was tortured in New Orleans in 1973 along with other Black activists, and he was given complete immunity by a 2004 grand jury in San Francisco for any role he might have played in 1971 connecting him to the death of a San Francisco police officer at the Ingleside Station – this in exchange for further cooperative statements.

The District Attorney has also argued that the eight men were members of a

"gang" that conspired to attack police officers and that the allegations alone are sufficient to deny attainable bail.

Ray Boudreaux's Bail Hearing

Ray was the first to have his bail hearing. He was met with a courtroom full of supporters. At one point his attorney asked that all those who supported Ray's motion to rise – the entire courtroom rose and stood in support of the motion and the SF 8, and remained standing for several minutes.



Richard O'Neal's Bail Hearing

Both Boudreaux and O'Neal appeared at court together. During their hearing, their attorneys argued that all eight men should be present at the bail hearings. The judge, siding with the District Attorney, reject this argument.

James Bustamante, Richard O'Neal's attorney, presented arguments in favor of a reasonable and attainable bail. He, like Michael Burt, Ray Boudreaux's attorney, argued that the only evidence linking Richard to the case were statements made by Ruben Scott whose testimony was proven to be perjurious by two courts in the past.

Richard Brown's Bail Hearing

Richard Mazer, representing Richard Brown presented the case for Richard's bail, showing that Richard is not a flight risk due to his very deep community ties. His many years of devotion to his family and community as well as his service as a Community Court Judge Arbitrator were emphasized to counter the litany from the prosecutors that

the only issue relevant to bail is the "killing of cops."

Attorney Mazer also emphasized that the only government evidence is weak and based on the contradictory and perjurious testimony of Ruben Scott, whose role as a government informant was bought by offers of immunity. Mazer said Richard Brown's incentive to appear is great, just as it was when he and others appeared for the Grand Jury hearings in 2005, because "when the defendant knows the government's case is weak, he has reasons to stick around."

Francisco Torres Bail Hearing

Speaking on behalf of Francisco Torres, Chuck Bourdon presented Cisco's family and described his personal history: VISTA volunteer, Vietnam Vet, long time community organizer, and devoted family member. Cisco is loved by his community, and is known as someone who helps everyone. He has been showered with letters of support. Cisco is the primary caretaker of a son with sickle cell anemia, who was too ill to join his family at the hearing today.

Summarizing the bail issue of "flight risk," Bourdon emphasized that the men are not flight risks because the case is totally weak. Previous attempts at prosecution have been thrown out, and there is no new evidence. The men expect to win. One concrete new example of this is that the defense learned today that in contrast to the results of fingerprint tests with "new" techniques that would implicate Cisco, current DNA testing contradicts those results. All of the DNA evidence obtained at the scene does not match any of the eight defendants. Result: No new evidence.

Hank Jones Bail Hearing

Jones' attorney, John Philipsborn, introduced Hank's family. He spoke of Hank's history of activism throughout his life and the FBI repression he faced because of his activism. Despite Hank never having been a member of the Panthers- active with the Black Student Union at the time- Hank's attorney stated the the Panthers could be compared to the African National Congress in South Africa, i.e., illegal organizations at

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Omaha Two Retrial Hearing Continues

by Michael Richardson

Omaha, Nebraska, birthplace of Malcolm X, has a long history of racial tension. In September 1919 a white crowd of 4,000 burned the Douglas County Courthouse to gain access to an accused black prisoner, Will Brown. Brown had been erroneously accused of the rape of a white woman and was in custody at the courthouse when the lynch mob gathered in the streets of downtown Omaha.

Mayor Edward Smith sought to quiet the mob and was dragged to a lamppost and hanged with a makeshift noose. Pulled down by a quick acting policeman the mayor hovered near death for several days. Will Brown was not so lucky. The mob hanged Brown and then dragged his body through the downtown streets behind a car before burning it on a street corner.

Fifty years later an Omaha policeman shot a 14 year-old girl, Vivian Strong, in the back to disperse a crowd. The death of the youngster triggered a year of intense tension between Omaha police and the black community.

Chief critics of the Omaha police were Black Panthers Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa (formerly David Rice). Poindexter and Langa were the leaders of the Panther group National Committee to Combat Fascism and were at the center of attention.

But it was not just the Omaha police that were watching the two Panthers, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was conducting a nationwide secret war against the Panthers code-named COINTELPRO. Poindexter and Langa were targets of COINTELPRO agents.

It all came to a head one night in August 1970 when police were called to a vacant house to investigate an emer-

gency call about a woman screaming. Instead, a suitcase bomb was waiting for the police. Officer Larry Minard was killed and seven others injured in the blast.



Police dragnets swept up dozens of people, multiple arrests were made but in the end a 15 year-old, Duane Peak, confessed to placing the bomb. But the COINTELPRO operation did not want a 15 year-old in custody, they wanted to silence the Black Panthers in Omaha. Freedom of Information requests have revealed that the FBI worked closely with Omaha police on the case and that critical information was later withheld from defense attorneys for Poindexter and Langa who were charged with the crime.

Peak was given a deal and sentenced as a juvenile in exchange for his testimony against Poindexter and Langa. The tape of the emergency call was withheld and later destroyed without ever being heard by a jury. Evidence implicating an uncle of Vivian Strong was not pursued by police. Conflicting testimony by police was made over dynamite allegedly found in Langa's residence.

Poindexter and Langa both denied their involvement in the crime and con-

tinue to proclaim their innocence from their prison cells, thirty-six long years after the trial that resulted in life sentences for the pair.

However, a now-deceased police dispatcher, perhaps suspecting COINTELPRO dirty trick tactics would be used in the case, quietly made his own copy of the emergency call that lured police to the deadly trap. It took years for the existence of the copy to become known but finally, in May of this year, Douglas County District Judge Russell Bowie listened to the tape in open court and heard testimony from an expert witness that the voice on the tape was not that of Peak.

The Nebraska chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union has filed an amicus brief with the court bringing judicial attention to the abuses of COINTELPRO, a then secret operation unknown to the jury that convicted Poindexter and Langa.

Judge Bowie has spent the summer reviewing the 1971 trial transcript, studying the legal briefs and considering the contradictory testimony of police detective Robert Pheffer who claims he found dynamite in Langa's home—dynamite never seen by the crime scene evidence technicians.

While the public waits for Judge Bowie to conclude his review of the COINTELPRO tainted trial, two men wait more anxiously than the rest from their cells in the Nebraska State Penitentiary. For Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa justice is long overdue.

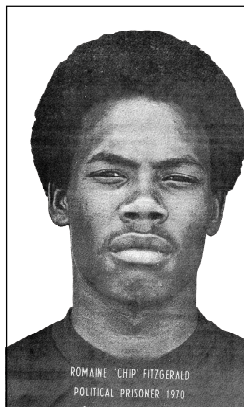
Author's Bio: Michael Richardson is a freelance writer based in Boston. Richardson writes about politics, election law, human nutrition, ethics, and music. In 2004 Richardson was Ralph Nader's national ballot access coordinator.

Chip Tranferred as New Parole Date Nears

As Romaine 'Chip' Fitzgerald is rescheduled for another parole hearing, we have received word that he has been transferred. Chip is a former L.A. Panther held since 1969 for an altercation with a California Highway Patrol officer.

For the last several years Chip has been held at CSP-Lancaster, a location close to his ailing mother and support community. Suddenly without notice, Chip was notified that he was going to be transferred. Chip soon found himself transferred to CSP-Centinel, near the Arizona/California border and far away from his support.

For the last year Chip's support community has been preparing for his parole hearing. Friends and family believe this is the best chance he has to be released after



38 years in prison. His original parole hearing was scheduled for March 29, but was cancelled. A new date for his parole hearing has been released: September 26, 2007.

This new date is rather short notice, so we ask all supporters to view LA ABCF's support site for chip at the following address:

<http://www.abcf.net/la/laabcf.asp?page=lachip1>

Chip's new address is the following:

Romaine 'Chip' Fitzgerald B-27527
FC-2-110
PO Box 921
Imperial, CA 92251

Love Park 4 - Anti-Racists Activists Arrested

On Monday July 23rd, four anti-fascists from the Philadelphia, PA area were arrested at what was supposed to be a Ku Klux Klan rally in Center City, Philadelphia. Jared Schultz, Tom Keenan, Jason Robbins - all of Philadelphia Anti-Racist Action - and Jim McGovern - of the Progressive Labor Party - were arrested and charged with a series of trumped up misdemeanors in a situation that, for all practical purposes, was entrapment.

Rumors spread through Philadelphia starting Friday July 20th that the Ku Klux Klan was supposed to show up for an 11 am rally on Monday at Love Park. While anti-fascists were present in the area starting at 10:30AM, no one showed up for the rally until noon, when two men wearing what appeared to be neo-Nazi t-shirts showed up in the area. Anti-fascists approached the men, confirmed they were neo-Nazis and told them to leave. Words were exchanged between the Klansmen and the anti-fascists, and then the neo-Nazis said they were leaving. The anti-fascists then followed behind them to make sure that they kept their promise.

Strangely, Civil Affairs cops remained on the other side of the Park the entire time and made no efforts to follow the group even when they were out of their sight. The neo-Nazis got into an SUV around the corner from the park. As they attempted to drive off, conveniently blocked by traffic, a verbal confrontation ensued with the anti-fascists lasting several minutes. During the conflict one of the windows to the SUV was smashed. Apparently the other occupants of the car were cops. The driver - who could have flashed his badge at anytime to disperse the crowd - ordered three

anti-fascists (Schultz, Keenan, Robbins and McGovern) against the wall.

The arresting officer was a Philadelphia Police Department detective, however, the SUV was, according to paperwork received by the arrestees, the vehicle of FBI Special Agent Sean Brennan, also present during the arrests. What an FBI agent was doing escorting neo-Nazis away from the park remains a mystery.

After the arrests, all four of the anti-fascists were transported to the 9th Police Precinct, where they remained for approximately 27 hours, awaiting notice of their charges and bail amounts.

Initially, the arrestees were informed that Internal Affairs was investigating their case and that they would be facing 10 charges - 4 felonies and 6 misdemeanors. In the end, however, all of the felonies were dropped, leaving the arrestees with 8 misdemeanor charges of varying degrees upon being bailed out. The fact that the charges were dropped so quickly proves how trumped up these charges are. However there's still a lot at stake for The Love Park 4.

Currently, everyone is facing the same 8 charges - Possession of an Instrument of

Crime With Intent, Criminal Conspiracy, Engaging with Possession of Instrument of Crime with Intent, Institutional Vandalism/Illegal Possession, Reckless Endangering Another Person, Resisting Arrest, Criminal Mischief, Harassment - Subject Other to Physical Contact, and Disorderly Conduct/Grading.

At this point, everyone is out of jail, doing fine and relaxing for a few days before what could be a lengthy and expensive legal ordeal. All of the defendants are scheduled for court on October 3rd, and are in the process of establishing a legal defense fund and securing legal counsel.

We are confident that with the right resources, all of the anti-fascists arrested will be able to defeat these outrageous charges, which could result in tens of thousands of dollars in fines and years of jail time.

The Love Park 4 are asking for resources to win this legal battle and you can help right now!

Simply go to <http://www.paypal.com>, click on the "send money" tab and make a donation to cyndipitt@gmail.com. If you wish to send funds through the mail with a check or well concealed cash to

Heartsville Community Space

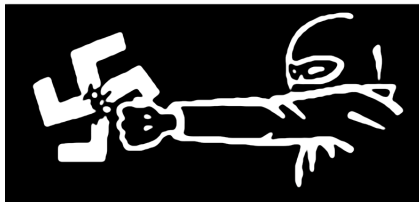
PO Box 5917

Philadelphia, PA 19137.

(Make sure to note that it is for 'The Love Park 4.')

Write to philly_ara@yahoo.com to receive updates on how you can lend a hand. They'll be plenty of work to do and will need your help

ANTI-RACIST



ACTION

Morristown 3 - Anti-Racist Activists Arrested

Three anti-racist activists, now known as the Morristown 3, were arrested on July 28th, 2007 after defending themselves from an attack by white supremacists. The Morristown 3 were attending a counter-protest to the Morristown mayor Donald Cresitello's racist anti-immigrant rally, when the attack took place. Cresitello wants to allow Morristown police officers to check into the immigration status of anyone pulled over for a traffic infraction or minor crime.

The actual attack took place behind the town hall when Erick Weigel - from the white power group, Stormfront- and his wife, Annette, jumped out of their truck armed with baseball bats and knives and assaulted a crowd of immigrant rights activists. The assault stemmed from Weigel being out-ed as a Nazi earlier at the rally.

When Weigel lunged at the anti-racist activist with a knife. He was quickly disarmed and fell to the ground. Weigel then pulled a bat from the back of his truck and began to attack the anti-racists with it.

By this point, more anti-racists activists began rushing the scene. Weigel and his wife tried to flee the scene but were stopped. Police rushed in and confiscated Weigel's weapons.

Weigel told the police they were victims of an unprovoked attack. Police took his word for it, arresting anti-racist activists several blocks away.

Weigel suffered a few scrapes and his wife suffered a bloody lip. Those attacked with baseball bats and knives suffered injuries to their knees and legs. Once again, no Nazis were arrested.

One of the anti-racists was charged with two counts of unlawful possession of a

weapon. Others were charged with simple assault, disorderly conduct, improper behavior and causing bodily injury.

It is important to note the only weapons involved in the incident were used by Weigel and his wife. Fingerprint analysis supports these claims.

Bails were set at between \$2,500 to \$5,000. All activists were bailed out within three hours of being transferred to the Morris County Jail.

Weigel and his friends are posting on Stormfront lists that he was assaulted. Nazis are currently posting pictures of anti-racists at rallies to target.

The Morristown 3 is asking for your help. They are asking for people to donate to help cover legal costs.

For more information, check out the support site for the Morristown 3 at: myspace.com/morristown3

The Case of the Jena 6

In dark times as these, it is especially heartening to see a political prisoner issue thrust into the living rooms of everyday Americans. CNN and even Fox News have broadcasted the tragic story of the Jena Six across the world, giving viewers a brief glimpse into the sordid affairs of those who end up on the wrong end of State power. The tale of the Jena 6 is certainly no cause for celebration, but one does take heart in the popular furor that has arisen in protest against the injustices plaguing the small town in upstate Louisiana.

Jena is a town of 4,000 people, the vast majority of whom are white. The local high school, Jena High, matriculates black and white students, who often separate themselves by race in and around the school.

As we know, incidents of racism in this country cannot occur without the long tentacles of white imperialism and domination numbly dragging along. They do not appear out of thin air. Such is the case of the Jena Six, which nominally began on August 31st, 2006. During a school assembly, a black Freshman asked the principal if it would be okay if his friends could sit under a tree in the schoolyard where white kids normally socialized. Even though the principal responded that students can "sit anywhere they want," the question was symbolic of the segregated nature of the school. As proof of this, the next morning students walked into school to find three nooses in school colors dangling from branches of the tree under which white kids traditionally sat.

Later it was discovered that three white students were responsible for the act and received a three day in-school suspension. The school superintendent, Roy Breithaupt, was quoting as saying "Adolescents play pranks. I don't think it was a threat against anybody." He overruled the principal's decision to expel the white students responsible.

Racial tensions heightened in the fol-

lowing weeks, and were doubtless exacerbated by the visit of a local district attorney to the school, where he reportedly told students at an assembly to stop making a fuss over "an innocent prank." He then noted that he could end students' lives with the stroke of his pen while looking at a group of black kids sitting together in the auditorium.

On December 1st, 2006—in the days leading up to what is popularly known as the "Jena Six Assault"—a black student, Robert Bailey, attended an all-white party, where he was beaten up and had a bottle broken over his head. One person received minor charges and probation, in effect a warning. The next night, at a convenience store, a white man at the party the night before pulled a sawed-off shotgun on three black male students, one of whom was Robert Bailey. The students took the shotgun from the man and ran away, frightened. In a telling twist, the three were later charged with theft of a firearm, second-degree robbery and disturbing the peace.

December 4th will be a day forever engrained in the minds of Jena students. A white student, Justin Barker, was walking with the three students responsible for the noose-hanging and allegedly boasting about Robert Bailey being beaten at the party. Six black students jumped him and subsequently beat him to the ground, where he was kicked until unconscious. Justin went to the hospital and was released three hours later. He was well enough to attend a ring ceremony later in the day, where he was "laughing" with friends.

The next day and the day after, the Jena Six were charged with aggravated second-degree battery. The charges were later increased to attempted second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit second-degree murder, which in Louisiana requires a deadly weapon. The "deadly" weapon: sneakers.

The six, Mychal Bell, Bryant Purvis, Robert Bailey, Theo Shaw, Carwin Jones,

and an unnamed minor, were expelled from school in January. Three of the six posted bail, and the fourth, Bailey, was released pending trial. To this day, Shaw and Bell are behind bars.

Mychal Bell's trial began in the spring, and with an inept public defender who did not call a single witness in the trial that followed, and an all-white judge and jury, the 16 year old was convicted after a mere 3 hours of jury deliberation. He was tried as an adult and faced up to 22 years in prison.

Since the procedures in the courts began, people of all creeds and colors have increasingly stood behind the Jena Six and their families by creating ad hoc support groups, signing a petition sent to Governor Blanco of Louisiana—which boasted over 280,000 signatures—and sending in money to the defense fund. The NAACP and the ACLU have also played positive roles in the case, by providing adequate defender for Bell. On September 20, a huge rally will be held in the small town, where thousands are expected to attend in a show of solidarity. For our part, LA-ABCF wrote a statement of unity with the Jena Six.

An otherwise no-good-news case has taken a few turns for the better in recent weeks. In September, a Louisiana appeals court threw out the convictions against Mychal Bell, saying he should have been tried as an adult. The charges for three of the six, including Bell, were also reduced to aggravated battery, where they initially stood.

Though it cannot be said for certain that the path ahead for the six teenagers will continue to lighten, what progress that has been made can be attributed to the righteous effort to oppose the often racist judicial system in this topsy-turvy nation. If only all the political prisoners behind bars in America received such widespread attention and support.

For more information about the Jena 6, please check out their support site at: www.jenasix.org



Continued from pg. 5

war with a "legitimate" government, with the ANC banned in South Africa and the BPP made de facto illegal by J. Edgar Hoover's FBI. "What do bail issues mean" Philipsborn asked, "when actions are a result of community perception of being oppressed and marginalized?"

Harold Taylor's Bail Hearing

During Harold Taylor's bail hearing, his attorney challenged the distortion of Taylor's previous case by the prosecution. Taylor went to trial in 1976 for a Los Angeles case, which the government is now using as part of their current theory of conspiracy. Taylor and others were accused of initiating a shootout with eight police who had stopped their car. However, Taylor testified in court that the opposite was true, that the police began shooting at the three men in the car and the men had shot back in self defense. The court saw it Taylor's way and he was acquitted of all charges.

Taylor was also arrested in Louisiana in 1973 as a suspects in the Ingleside police shooting, Harold, along with John Bowman and Ruben Scott, was brutally tortured by the New Orleans police for five days until he and the others signed a pre-written confession. The case was subsequently thrown out of court when the judge recognized that torture had produced the "confessions." Ignoring that court's ruling, Attorney General David Druliner now suggests that torture never took place. In addition to the legal issues, the torture has had a profound personal effect on Taylor, according to his attorney stated. Taylor suffers from both ongoing back and neck injuries as well as constant nightmares resulting from PTSD (post traumatic stress syndrome).

Despite the District Attorneys arguments on August 22, the judge reduced bail on six men. Here is where their bails stands now.

Richard Brown: \$ 420,000

Hank Jones: \$ 600,000

Richard O'Neal: \$ 200,000

Harold Taylor: \$ 350,000

Francisco Torres: \$ 660,000

First Five Out on Bail

Richard O'Neal was freed on bail Wednesday, August 29 and Richard Brown was freed on bail Thursday, August 30. Ray Boudreaux was freed on bail September 11th. Harold Taylor was freed on bail September 12th. Hank Jones released on September 18th.

Next hearing September 24

The next court date for the SF8 case is September 24th at 9:30 am in Department 23, 850 Bryant Street, 3rd floor.

On a side note, Richard Brown has deteriorating vision. He has lost sight in one eye and has severely reduced vision in the other. Richard was just diagnosed with narrow-angle glaucoma. If not treated aggressively can lead to total loss of vision. Now that he is out he can schedule surgery and begin proactive treatment regimen.

PFLP Leader to Stand Trial in Israel

The military trial of Ahmad Sa'adat, General Secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, is scheduled to begin November 4th at Ofer Military Base in Ramallah, Palestine. The trial, which was last scheduled on August 29th, has been delayed on multiple occasions.

Sa'adat has been imprisoned since January 2002. Since his imprisonment he has been held in custody by the Palestinian Authority under U.S. and British Guard, and then by the Israeli military after their attack on Jericho Prison on March 14, 2006. He has never been tried. Sa'adat, with five other Palestinian political prisoners, was kidnapped from the Palestinian Authority prison in Jericho on March 14, 2006, during an armed Israeli military assault on the prison waged in order to abduct these prisoners.

He is charged with a laundry list of "security offenses," all political in nature, including membership in a forbidden organization, holding a post in a forbidden organization, and "incitement," for a speech condemning the Israeli military's murder of the man who held his post before him, Abu Ali Mustafa. Sa'adat refuses to cooperate with the court, pointing out that it is an illegitimate court enforcing an illegal military occupation. He believes the court is acting as a weapon of the occupation to persecute Palestinian leaders and political activists and to undermine the Palestinian people's political activity.

During his entire time in Palestinian Authority prisons, Sa'adat was never



tried or charged. Sa'adat was a nominal prisoner of the Palestinian Authority, but was in fact guarded by U.S. and British guards, at the behest of Israel. The Palestinian High Court of Justice ruled that Sa'adat should be immediately released, as did numerous international human rights organizations. Following his election in January 2006 to the Palestinian Legislative Council, Sa'adat remained imprisoned at Jericho, despite growing calls for his release. On March 14, 2006, the U.S. and British guards assigned to Jericho Prison abandoned their posts in order to allow for an Israeli military assault on the prison that ended with the capture of Sa'adat and five other Palestinian political prisoners, the deaths of two Palestinians, and the injury of 23 Palestinians.

Following the abduction of Sa'adat, the Israeli military courts admitted they lacked sufficient evidence to try Sa'adat under more serious charges, and have

instead charged him with an array of political offenses.

Sa'adat joins over 11,000 other men, women and children, held in Israeli jails as political prisoner for struggling for the rights of their people. These 11,000 Palestinian political prisoners represent political activists, organizers and leaders. The systematic imprisonment of Palestinians has been calculated by the military occupation in order to disrupt Palestinian political life and extend the illegal military occupation.

The military courts trying Sa'adat and the other Palestinian prisoners are entirely institutions of the illegitimate military occupation. They function solely as a means of maintaining that occupation and repressing any and all resistance to its perpetuation. As such, these military courts are illegitimate entities of an illegal military occupation that has been condemned by every leading international body and human rights organization.

The situation of Palestinian political prisoners is a human rights crisis. Palestinian parliamentarians and political leaders and activists are routinely subject to detention and lengthy terms of imprisonment for their political work on behalf of their people. In order to shed light on their situation and create the kind of pressure that is necessary to ensure justice, the voices of international human rights organizations are desperately needed.

For more information:

<http://www.freeahmadsaadat.org>

Press Release by the lawyers of the Cuban Five

Oral argument in the appeal of Gerardo Hernández, René González, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino and Fernando González, five Cubans unjustly held in United States' prisons since 1998

ATLANTA, Agosto 20. Oral argument in the appeal of Gerardo Hernández, René González, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino and Fernando González, five Cubans unjustly held in United States' prisons since 1998, took place before the three judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals on August 20, 2007.

At the hearing, as at the two prior hearings held in March 2004 and February 2006, both parties, the Government and the Defense, asserted their arguments and responded to questions from the judges.

This hearing is one more step in the long appeal process of these five men since they were sentenced in 2001. As in the past, the Government of the United States was once again unable to refute the arguments of the Defense and sustain the accusations against the five.



For its part, the Defense, demonstrated irrefutably that the improper conduct of the Government during the entire legal process against the five constituted a flagrant violation of due process that influenced the entire proceeding, primarily by the way in which the Prosecutor invented the charges, promoted a hostile environment and manipulated the evidence and the jury.

Other key arguments of the Defense that demonstrate the arbitrariness of the process is lack of evidence to sustain the two main accusations "conspiracy to commit espionage and conspiracy to commit murder in

the first degree" and the imposition of completely irrational and unjustifiable life sentences. The Government itself admitted during trial that it could not present a single secret document to prove espionage and that it faced an "insurmountable obstacle" to prove the charge of murder.

Throughout the tainted process the Government admitted that its real concern was to protect the anti-Cuban terrorist groups that operate with total immunity in Miami and to punish those who fight against them.

Next September 12, these five men, accused of crimes they did not commit, will begin their tenth year in prison only because they attempted to protect Cuba from terrorist acts. Cuba like the United States and any other country of the World has a legitimate right to defend itself against the scourge of terrorism that has harmed so many victims.

We trust in the professionalism of the panel of judges and that soon or later justice will prevail for Gerardo, René, Antonio, Ramón and Fernando.

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 RevolutionaryPolitical Dictionary with these and other expanded definitions of political terms. Available from Los Angeles ABC for \$1 and two 39 cents stamps.)

Ricardo Palmera, FARC Negotiator, Found Guilty

The U.S. war on the Colombian revolutionary movement took a serious turn on July 9 when a Washington, D.C., federal court convicted Ricardo Palmera of conspiring to kidnap three U.S. defense contractors in 2003.

Palmera, the lead negotiator for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, was captured in Quito, Ecuador, and later extradited to the United States in December 2004.

The three U.S. agents at issue worked for Northrop Grumman, a defense conglomerate contracted by the Pentagon to carry out spy work in Colombia.

After an initial trial last year ended in a hung jury, this second trial ended in inconsistent verdicts on the various phony charges levied against Palmera. The jury found him guilty on one count of conspira-

cy, but told Judge Royce C. Lamberth that they could not reach a consensus on the remaining three charges of taking hostages and a final count of providing material support to a "terrorist" organization.

Conspiracy is a charge that is always used by U.S. prosecutors in political cases. A conspiracy is an agreement between people to commit a substantive crime. By using the charge of conspiracy, the government does not have to prove any underlying crime. It's a loaded, "catch-all" charge that almost always results in a guilty verdict.

This case was no different. After the verdict, Kenneth Wainstein, assistant attorney general for national security, said: "Anyone involved in the hostage-taking and murder of Americans anywhere around the globe should pay close attention to this

verdict. This prosecution demonstrates we will spare no effort to apprehend, prosecute and punish any individual who participates in the abduction of our citizens."

Two days after he was found guilty, the U.S. Department of Justice indicated that it would seek a reduced sentence for Palmera if the FARC released the three CIA agents. The DOJ also said it would not make "concessions to terrorists."

Palmera still faces trial in the United States on patently false charges of drug trafficking and dozens of additional charges in Colombia.

Palmera's conviction comes days after another FARC member, Anayibe Rojas Valderama, also known as Sonia, was sentenced to 17 years in a U.S. prison on wrongful charges of cocaine trafficking.

[See Below]

FARC Member 'Sonia' Sentenced to 17 years

Washington, D.C. - Anayibe Rojas Valderama, a member of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC) also known as 'Sonia', was sentenced here, July 2 by Judge James Robertson to nearly 17 years in federal prison on charges of shipping cocaine to the United States.

"What took place in this courtroom today was anything but justice. This is a frame-up, pure and simple," stated Mick Kelly outside the D.C. courtroom. Kelly, who helps lead the defense work for another Colombian political prisoner, Ricardo Palmera, added, "In the course of the trial the prosecution called on a band of professional liars to testify. There was the \$15,000-a month DEA informant, Rocio Alvarez. Then there were the tales of the retired Colombian National Police officer, Mauricio Moreno, who spoke of plots to sell cocaine to the paramilitaries and then steal it. And then there was 'Juan Valdez' whose testimony was a collection of lies."

During the sentencing hearing, defense attorney Carmen Hernandez pressed for a new trial. She cited the fact that the testimony of 'Juan Valdez' was completely discredited and this amounted to new evidence. She also pointed out that her interviews with the jurors after Sonia's conviction indicated that they were influenced by the 'Juan Valdez' testimony. Judge Robinson agreed that the 'Juan Valdez' testimony was dubious at best, but then he ruled against a new trial.

Outside the courtroom, defense attorney Hernandez told the press that the trial is not the way things are supposed to work under the constitution. Hernandez was not allowed to make needed investi-

gations and the instructions to the jury were flawed.

Sonia speaks out

Before she was sentenced, Sonia, who was wearing an orange prison jumpsuit, told the court that she was innocent of the charges. She repeatedly proclaimed her innocence throughout her statement.

She related that she had been born to a poor farm family in an outlying area without a government presence. She only received two years of schooling and had to attend school barefoot because of her family's poverty. She got her first pair of shoes at age 14. It was because of the conditions in her area that she joined the FARC guerillas.

She was arrested in February of 2004 on her brother's farm and charged with rebellion. However, she was extradited to the United States 13 months later on charges of export of large amounts of cocaine to the United States - the charge she continues to deny.

She asked how it can be explained that, if she was a major drug dealer, her family continues to live in poverty and does not have enough to eat. She also said that family members of Colombians convicted on similar charges in the United States cannot visit because they are denied visas. Even if her family could get visas they could not afford airfare to visit her.

The Bush administration labeled her as a 'terrorist' because of her FARC membership. Because of that label, she was kept in solitary confinement for two years of her time here, in spite of never having been charged with infraction of prison rules. She was subjected to severe treatment, for instance being allowed to bathe

only twice a week - and then only in handcuffs. Sonja described her solitary confinement as "psychological torture."

Sonia noted that during a brief period she had been held in the general population of the District of Columbia jail and had been able to study and learn some English. She asked that the 'terrorist' label be lifted from her so that she not be held in maximum security and would be able to continue to study and learn.

"It is sad that a lie has become justice in this court because I have not done what they say I have," said Sonja.

More to come

According to U.S. Assistant Attorney General Fisher, "The prosecution of these FARC members, the first of its kind in the United States, was made possible because of the exceptional cooperation of Colombian authorities and the hard work and efforts of the DEA agents and federal prosecutors who, working together, were essential to the successful conclusion of this important case."

Tom Burke of the National Committee to Free Ricardo Palmera responds: "This case demonstrates that the Bush administration will stop at nothing to criminalize the struggle for free and independent Colombia. Sonia is not a drug dealer. She is hero who is being made to suffer for her efforts to bring justice to Colombia. Her frame-up was made in the U.S.A. and was assisted by Colombia's death-squad government."

Burke urges all progressive people to support these Colombian political prisoners held in the U.S. prison system.

There are no addresses available for these prisoners as of today.

RUNNING DOWN THE WALLS 2007 REPORT

Los Angeles

LA ABCF had a great success with this year's Running Down the Walls (RDTW). We held the event on Sept. 8th at Whittier Narrows Regional Park in El Monte, CA. The route circled around two lakes, which provided a great opportunity to reflect on the purpose of the day. At the beginning of the run, participants were reminded of the other solidarity runs taking place USP Big Sandy, MCI Walpole, Boston and West Massachusetts.

Beginning at 10 am, people came throughout the day to support the event and enjoy the weather. In the past, we have had Rob Middaugh and Sara Jane Olson at our runs. Both supported the event prior to their imprisonment. This year, former political prisoner, Matt Lamont, was at the run. (We hope this changes the trend from future political prisoners to former political prisoners at Running Down the Walls.)

LA Food Not Bombs graciously provided food for the event. We wish to personally thank them for their efforts. We would also like to take a moment to recognize two participants of the run: Ami who raised the highest amount and Brian who left everyone in his dust, taking first place in the run. Both received \$25 to be used at AK Press. We thank AK Press for their generous prizes.

With thirty people participating, we raised close to \$1,700 for the ABCF Warchest and the Black Rider Liberation Party. Thanks to all that participated in this year's Running Down the Wall.

Western Massachusetts

On September 8th at 1pm we headed up Mt. Norwottuck for the first annual Western Massachusetts' Running Down The Walls 5k hike done in solidarity with other RDTW events. At the top of Mt. Norwottuck with the sun shining down and a spectacular view of the Pioneer Valley the names of over a hundred political pris-



oners were read out loud. We then hiked over to the Horse Caves, amazing overhanging rock ledges where Daniel Shay and his men supposedly hid out during the Shays' Rebellion. It was a really great day. \$335 was raised.

Boston

On Sunday, September 9th, prisoners in Walpole, Mass, Elmore, Alabama and all over the country were running down the walls. On the outside, about 30 people in Boston ran the 5K around Jamaica Pond. It was a great event and we would like to thank everybody for participating, and for their generous support. With everybody's participation and solidarity we raised \$1100!! Half of the funds will go to the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee in honor of Leonard's birthday, and the other half will go to the San Francisco 8.

So thanks again for coming out and running. We hope to see you at next year's Running Down the Walls and on December 3rd for Jericho's event recognizing the International Day in Solidarity with Political Prisoners.

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 41¢ 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).

Stamp Schedule

Sept- Philadelphia

Oct- Los Angeles

Nov- Philadelphia

Dec- Los Angeles

Send a check or money order to Philadelphia ABCF made out to Tim Fasnacht for forty 41¢ 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**

Subsistence Report for 2007

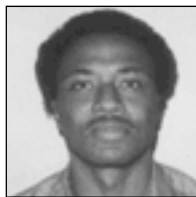
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
NJ/HAYES	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
RYAN/ALSKA	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
EZE/NJ	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0
JAX	0	0	0	20	20	0	0	0
TONY/KS	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHRIS/NJ	0	0	10	10	10	0	10	0
RYAN/ALASKA	0	0	15	15	15	15	15	15
ANNE/JERICO	0	0	0	0	0	0	160	0
TOTAL	0	50	25	45	45	115	185	15



Sekou Odinga
05228-054/ Box 8500
Florence, CO 81226-8500
Receives \$30 per month



Ruchell Cinque Magee #
A92051 / 3B-05-103
Box 3466
Corcoran, CA 93212
Receives \$30 per month



Herman Bell
2318931
850 Bryant Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
Receives \$30 per month



Ricardo Jimenez
88967-024
PO Box 1000 A-2
Lewisburg PA 17837
Receives \$30 per month



Alvaro Luna Hernandez
255735/ Hughes Unit
Rt. 2, Box 4400
Gatesville, TX 76597
Receives \$30 per month



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



Hanif Shabazz Bey
295933 / Box 860
Oakwood, Virginia 24631
Keen Mountain Center
Receives \$30 per month



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



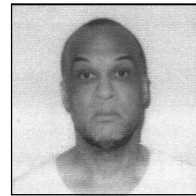
James OJ Pitawanakwat
Mission Inst. / Box 60
Mission BC V2V 4L8
Canada
\$30 every 3rd month



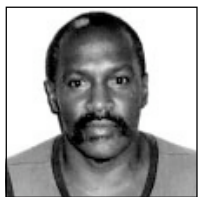
Russel Maroon Shoats
AF-3855
175 Progress Dr.
Waynesburg, PA 15370
Receives \$30 per month



Sekou Kambui
113058 / Box 56 SCC
(BI-21)
Elmore, AL 36025-0056
Receives \$30 per month



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



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



Jalil Muntaqim
(Bottom) 2311826
850 Bryant Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
Received Emergency Funds



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



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



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



Thomas Manning
10373-016 /Box 2000
USP Hazelton
Bruceton Mills, WV 26525
Received Emergency Funds



Richard Williams
FALLEN COMRADE
Died in Incarceration
Nov 4, 1947- Dec 7, 2005
Received \$30 per month



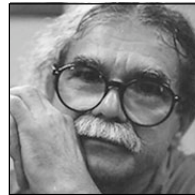
Veronza Bowers
35316-136 / Box 1032
Coleman, FL 33521
FCI Coleman
Received Emergency Funds



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



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



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



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

"Thanks much for the support you've been organizing. I really appreciate it. After not having any or very little support for so long, it now seems like people have all of a sudden realized that I am alive."

~ Sekou Odinga (New Afrikan Prisoner of War)



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 mos
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

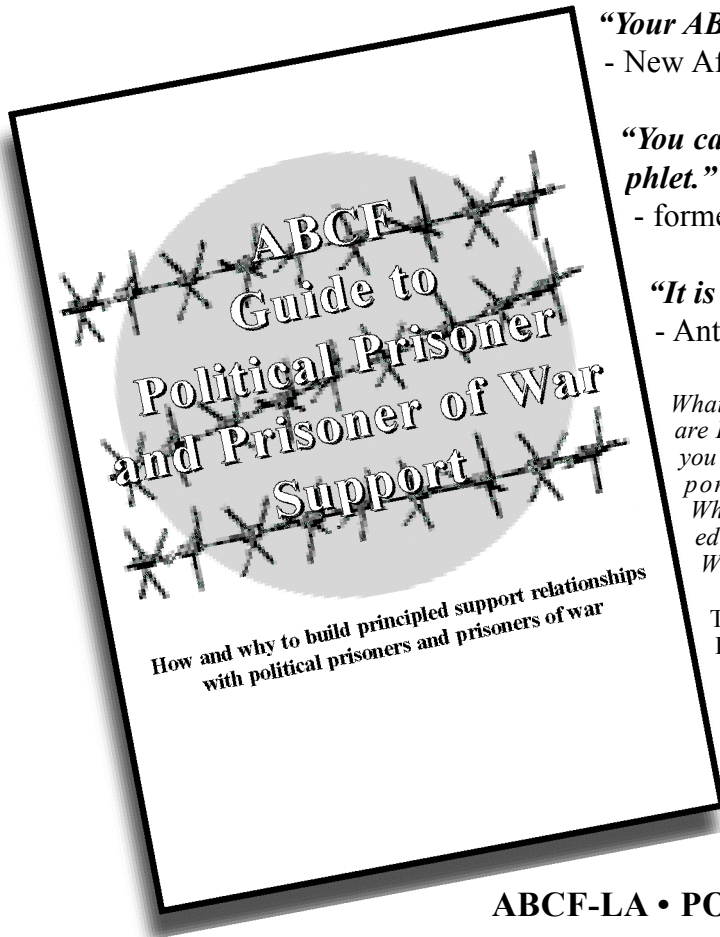
FUNDS IN	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT
LA ABCF/RDTW	100	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	1700
DAN D./ LA RDTW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
PHL ABCF	77	0	25	30	20	20	20	20	20
JAX ABCF	0	0	0	30	30	0	0	0	0
NJ ABCF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHRIS/NJ	140	20	25	20	20	0	20	0	0
EZE/NJ	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0
RYAN/ALSKA	25	35	25	25	25	55	35	35	35
PROPAGANDI	0	0	0	92	0	0	0	0	0
JUSTIN/CLEV	0	0	0	120	0	0	0	0	0
ANON	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JIM/PHILLY	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TONY/KS	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ALEJANDRO	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
SHEILA/LA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	0
SHARON SHOATZ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	360	0
W. MASS. RDTW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	347.5
TOTAL	357	80	115	317	95	175	75	450	2178

FUNDS OUT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT
SEKOU KAMBUI	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
RUSSELL SHOATZ	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
JOSEPH BOWEN	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
HANIFF BEY	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
HERMAN BELL	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
SEKOU ODINGA	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
RUCHELL MAGEE	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
ALVARO HERNANDEZ	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
MALIKI LATINE	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	30	30
THOMAS MANNING	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	240	240	240	290	340	240	240	270	270

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

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	3842
TOTAL	50366

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	2370
TOTAL	46086



“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.”

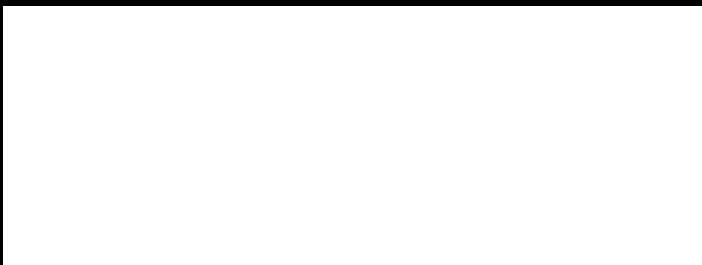
- Anti-Imperialist PP Tom Manning

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.”