

Page One Newsletter

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Jalil Muntaqim Denied Parole, Seeks Commutation

Elder denied parole for the 10th time

by Jane

On December 11th, 2018 Jalil Muntaqim a former member of the Black Panther Party (BPP) and Black Liberation Army (BLA) who has served over 47 years in prison, went in front of the New York State Board of Parole for the 10th time. For the 10th time, he was denied.

The week after, only three days after Jalil received the news of his latest denial, we went to visit him at Sullivan Correctional Facility. Jalil wanted the greater political prisoner support community to know this was not a fair hearing. He wanted to get the message out that our side should be vocal about our disappointment and upset with this decision. That the government finds our minimal reaction when injustice is done inconsequential. That we should appeal directly to Governor Andrew Cuomo for Jalil's freedom.

Jalil's fight for freedom

It is no secret that Jalil is and has been one of the most active political prisoners when it comes to organizing, writing, and collaborating in his 47 years inside. He started the first National Prisoners' Newspaper called "Arm the Spirit". He helped to found the Jericho Amnesty Movement through proposing and co-directing a national march and demonstration in Washington D.C calling for recognition and amnesty for the US held political prisoners. He filed a major civil rights law suit to win NYS prisoners the right to vote. He has worked as a jailhouse lawyer and published two books of essays and poetry. He has taught multiple classes in various prisons including African Studies, Poetry, Psychology, Leal Research, and Computer Literacy as well as engaged in Conflict Resolution and Alternative to Violence activities inside.

Jalil has been and continues to active in the movement both inside and outside prison walls. His friendship and guidance is instrumental and has had a lasting impact on generations of folks. Jalil has spent far too many years locked in a cage, fighting for the struggle. We owe it to our

movement elder, comrade, and friend to return the favor.

Jalil has filed an application for Governor Cuomo to Commute the Sentence to Time Served. He needs our help. We need to bring Jalil's fight for freedom to Cuomo's mailbox, inbox, voicemail, and twitter. This is a call for everyone who has ever written, visited, talked about, thought about or read about Jalil. He has been locked away 47 years too long. It's time to get him out. *(See Current Campaigns on page 3 for more information.)*

"AFTER 47+ YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT, SINCE THE AGE OF 19 YEARS OLD, NOW A 67 YEAR OLD GREAT GRANDFATHER, AND HAVING BEEN BEFORE THE PAROLE BOARD 10 TIMES, IT IS TIME FOR GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO TO GRANT MY APPLICATION TO COMMUTE THE SENTENCE TO TIME SERVED. WITH YOUR ACTIVE SUPPORT WE WILL WIN MY FIGHT FOR FREEDOM!" - Jalil Muntaqim ■

Then and Now: Political Prisoners at USP Leavenworth

by Acton

As we write at the moment, anarchist political prisoner Eric King is in the SHU at USP Leavenworth. Leavenworth is a prison on stolen land in the state now known as Kansas, historically indigenous Kanza territory and where John Brown once struck well justified terror in to the hearts of slave-holders. The prison was first built as a fort, later converted to be a military prison doing the colonial expansion of the so called 'United States' into indigenous territory, and was authorized as Federal Penitentiary in 1896.

The SHU (or 'Special Housing Unit) is a modern torture chamber in which prisoners are isolated from contact with other humans and the natural world for 23-24 hours a day. Eric's right to communication with family and friends has been severely limited as well, to the point that he has been forced to go on hunger strike just to pressure the prison authorities to allow him short, monthly phone calls to his wife. The circumstances that earned him this new round of extra repression were precipitated by a beating at the hands of so-called 'corrections officers' at FCI Florence, to which Eric

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responded by defending himself. This led to torture by four-post restraint bed, denial of needed medical attention, theft of his glasses, and finally transfer to the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth. Eric's immediate future remains uncertain; his communication rights have been severely curtailed and he will possibly serve the remainder of his sentence (4 and 1/2 years if all goes 'well') without access to the yard and extremely limited human contact. For now, he is in Leavenworth, which has a history of political prisoners, as many prisons do. Not that this is anything to celebrate, but perhaps the history of fealty to shared ideals is a kind of solidarity across time, that hopefully can provide some light and warmth for Eric and others who try to hold it down in face of unthinkable repression. (*For more about Eric, see current campaigns, back page*).

Another anarchist political prisoner who did time at USP Leavenworth is Ricardo Flores Magón, Mexican revolutionary of Zapotec descent. Just over a century ago the Mexican Revolution broke out, amid calls of 'Tierra y Libertad!' by the Partido Liberal do Mexico (PLM) through their newspaper *Regeneración*, of which Ricardo was a founder (along with his brothers Enrique and Jesus) and its editor until the end. The PLM were no liberals in the mealy-mouthed sense of today, nor were they really a political party. Though it began with less radical aspirations, by the time the Revolution was in full swing the PLM had become a revolutionary anarchist organization, demanding an end to autocracy, land to the people, and "everything for everyone!" (*Todo para todos!*)

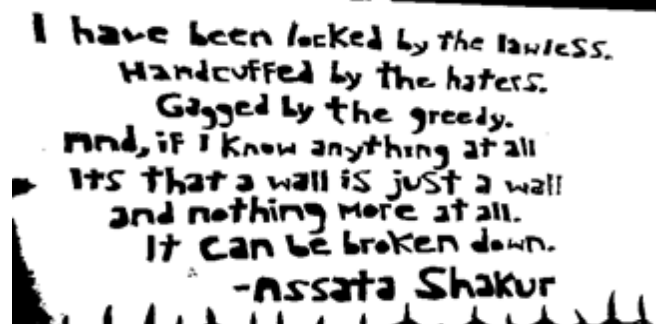
The Magonistas exerted an energetic influence on the revolutionary left through the power of words and direct action—including armed uprisings—and were soon hounded across the northern border by Mexican authorities. Settling for a time in California (where they founded the Edendale commune in present day Silverlake, Los Angeles) the Magonistas continued to produce and distribute *Regeneración* and to raise funds and awareness for the revolutionaries in Mexico. The United States government intervened on behalf of their Mexican counterparts, and Ricardo Flores Magón was arrested multiple times, each time being supported and helped by anarchists such as Emma Goldman. He was eventually charged and convicted of violating the Espionage Act by 'obstructing the

war effort' due to his agitation against the imperialist World War. This sentence would be his last. Suffering from complications of diabetes and continually denied proper medical care, Ricardo Flores Magón died at USP Leavenworth on November 21st, 1922. (*See an excerpt from RFM to a supporter on back page*)

In recent years Leonard Peltier, also an indigenous freedom fighter, American Indian Movement member, and one of the longest serving political prisoners still inside, was interned on and off at USP Leavenworth from 1977 to 2005. It was from that prison that he wrote his influential book *Prison Writings: My Life is My Sundance* (first published in 1999). As he wrote in that book, recounting his arrest and conviction and subsequent time inside:

And so the long, long blur of my prison life began. I won't bore you with the endless transfers from Leavenworth to other federal prisons, then back again, then out again and back yet again—Terre Haute, Marion, Springfield, and so on, each of them with large and small horror stories of their own. When you're a houseguest in hell, you learn the devil has many mansions, and you keep shuttling between them for no known reason. At least in hell you always get a room, or part of one. There aren't any homeless people in hell. Guess it beats certain other places in that regard.

All prisons are gates of hell, and Leavenworth is no exception. We work to support our comrades there now, honor those of the past, and anxiously await the day when it will no longer exist as a human cage. Until all are free... ■



I have been locked by the lawless.
Handcuffed by the haters.
Gagged by the greedy.
And, if I know anything at all
It's that a wall is just a wall
and nothing more at all.
It can be broken down.
-Assata Shakur

RADICAL ROUND UP

From No More Deaths:

On January 18th, 2019 four No More Deaths/No Más Muertes volunteers were convicted of misdemeanors ranging from entering a national wildlife refuge without a permit to abandonment of property. These four aid workers are among nine No More Deaths volunteers facing prosecution for their efforts to place life-saving food and water on the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, a vast and remote area south of Ajo, Arizona where 155 border crossers are known to have died since 2001 and countless more have gone missing.

The remaining volunteers facing charges are scheduled to begin trial on February 26 and March 4 of this year.

“THIS VERDICT CHALLENGES NOT ONLY NO MORE DEATHS VOLUNTEERS, BUT PEOPLE OF CONSCIENCE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IF GIVING WATER TO SOMEONE DYING OF THIRST IS ILLEGAL, WHAT HUMANITY IS LEFT IN THE LAW OF THIS COUNTRY?” –CATHERINE GAFFNEY, NO MORE DEATHS VOLUNTEER ■



CALLS FOR SUPPORT

Eric King: Eric recently ended a week long hunger strike and there is a call in campaign to restore communication between he and his wife which was cut off without notice in November 2018.

Call USP Leavenworth: (913) 682-8700
Script: “Hi I am calling about Eric King, #27090045 to demand that his phone restriction be lifted. It is unacceptable to take away a prisoner’s calls to his wife and family without any notice and without him being brought up on any charges. We demand that Eric is provided with proof that proper procedure was followed and that his two month old grievance on the issue is addressed. Restrictions on his communication with his spouse needs to be lifted immediately”
<supportericking.org for more info>

Jalil Muntaqim: Urge Governor Cuomo to grant Jalil’s application to Commute the Sentence to Time Served. You must refer to Jalil as: Anthony Bottom, 77A4283, Sullivan Correctional Facility, Fallsburg NY 12733-0116.
Call: (518) 474-8390; Tweet: @NYGovCuomo
Write: The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
Executive Chamber
State Capital Building
Albany, NY 12224
<freejalil.com for more info>

Joe Joe Bowen: Joe Joe was recently transferred and put back into solitary confinement after finally being released to general population after FOUR decades in solitary. He is without essentials such as shower shoes, towels, or layers for the cold Pennsylvania winter. Donate to his fundraiser: send well-concealed cash, a check, or money order (made payable to NYC ABC) to:
NYC ABC
Post Office Box 110034
Brooklyn, New York 11211
or online at <https://paypal.me/nycabc>
<nycabc.wordpress.com for more info>

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Leonard Peltier: Leonard has put in a request for transfer to FCI Oxford in Wisconsin which would put him the closest to his family that he has ever been in the 44 years he has been in a cage.

Call: 972-352-4400

Email: GRA-DSC/PolicyCorrespondence@bop.gov

Write: Grand Prairie Office Complex

346 Marine Forces Drive

Grand Prairie, TX 75051

Script:

RE: LEONARD PELTIER REGISTER NUMBER
89637-132

I want to express my support for the transfer of Mr. Leonard Peltier 89637-132 to FCI Oxford in Wisconsin. Mr. Peltier is approaching his 75th birthday and has done over 44 years in Federal Custody. It is time that he be assigned to a Federal facility closer to his family and an expert medical facility, like the Mayo Clinic.

The Oxford Facility is within a day's drive for Mr. Peltier's family in Minnesota & North Dakota and only 2 ½ hours from the Mayo clinic, which would provide the best health care necessary for the elder Mr. Leonard Peltier. Thank you for considering Mr. Peltier's request for a transfer to FCI Oxford. ■

Prison is Hell

Write a letter to someone inside

Letters are essential to a prisoner's survival. Not only do they serve as a conduit and connection to the outside world, but they help to show the prison that people on the outside care and are watching.

Visit nycabc.wordpress.com for the full illustrated guide to political prisoners and prisoners of war as well as "how to" tips for writing letters.

Quick tips: DON'T TALK ABOUT ANYTHING ILLEGAL! Anywhere, ever actually. Be mindful of where this person lives. Cops read the letters. And our political prisoners are under heightened surveillance. Don't get someone in trouble by trying to flex machismo.

When writing to folk in a federal facility (usually contain FCI, USP, FCC, FDC, FMC, MDC, or MCC in the name) use ONLY plain white or lined paper and plain white envelopes. No cards. This also applies to Pennsylvania state prisons. ■

Prison Letters

Below is the first letter Ricardo Flores Magón wrote from USP Leavenworth (In the original Spanish):

Diciembre 4 de 1919

Gus Teltsch

Lake Bay, Wash.

Mi querido camarada:

Esta carta tiene por objeto notificarte, así como a todos los camaradas, mi nueva residencia. Fui trasladado de McNeil a este lugar en los últimos días de Octubre 2 .

Mi dirección es como sigue: "Ricardo Flores Magón, P.O. Box 7, Leavenworth, Kansas;" y será para mí un verdadero placer saber de ti y del resto de mis amigos. Mi salud ha mejorado notablemente durante los meses últimos. ¿Como se encuentran todos ustedes?

¿Has visto a Librado [Rivera] últimamente? Cuando tengas oportunidad dale mis mejores recuerdos. Ahora puedo escribirte directamente, pues el reglamento de esta institución me permite escribir tres cartas semanales.

Esta carta me deja magnífico ánimo soñando, como, siempre, en un futuro de amor, fraternidad y paz. ¡Un futuro que se acerca más cada día! Puedo ver la aurora de un nuevo día, o precisando mejor, de una nueva era. Solamente los ciegos no pueden verlo. Es cierto que hay mucha inquietud, disgustos y sufrimientos, pero eso es muy natural: el nacimiento de un niño siempre va acompañado de dolores e incomodidades. Así es que no perdamos la cabeza ni nos sumerjamos en la desesperación. Al fin todo se arreglará para satisfacer a la justicia y la civilización, anhelos naturales de la raza humana.

Esperando recibir tus noticias y con mis mejores deseos para ti y todos los camaradas, quedo tuyo por una humanidad mejor.

Ricardo Flores Magón



Page One Collective focuses on spreading the word/s of and about political prisoners past and present. Our name comes from the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) justification for rejecting a letter sent to a U.S. held political prisoner:

"Page one calls for solidarity"

Write to us: pageonecollective@protonmail.com

Twitter: @page1collective