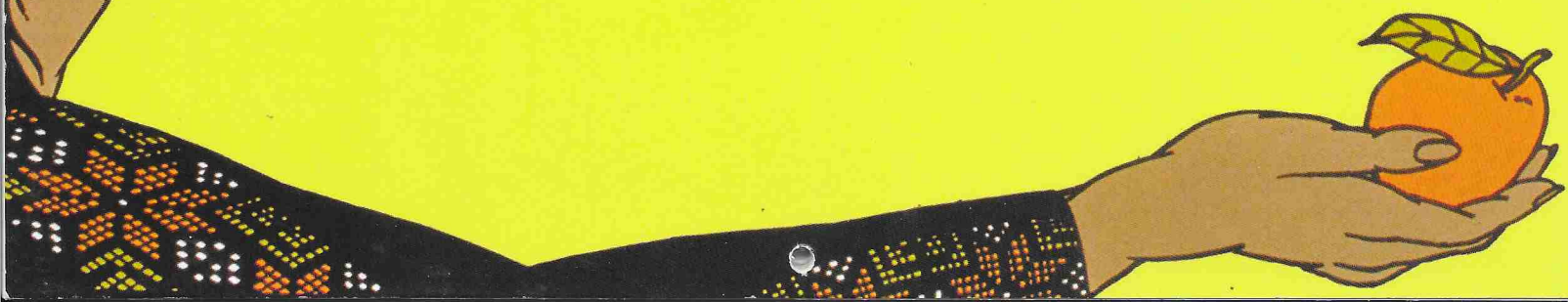


certain DAYS:  
the **2016**  
freedOm for  
Political Prisoners  
Calendar



INTERNATIONALISM, SOLIDARITY,  
AND GLOBAL STRUGGLE





# intro- ductions

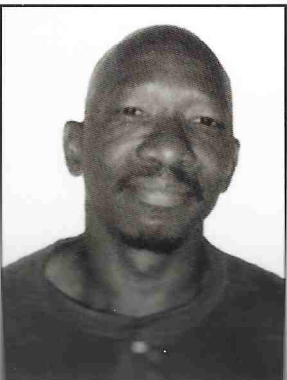
**the calendar:** *Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar* is a joint fundraising and educational project between outside organizers in Montreal and Toronto and three political prisoners being held in maximum-security prisons in New York State: Herman Bell, David Gilbert and Robert Seth Hayes. The initial project was suggested by Herman in 2001, and has been shaped throughout the 14-year process by all of our ideas, discussions, and analysis. During that time, many different individuals, including some in New York City, have contributed as members of the calendar collective. All of the current members of the outside collective are involved in day-to-day organizing work other than the calendar, on issues ranging from refugee and immigrant solidarity to community media to prisoner justice. We work from an anti-imperialist, anti-racist, anti-capitalist, feminist, queer and trans liberationist position.

**the context:** Today's struggles against war, capitalism, imperialism and colonialism are rooted in the history of earlier struggles for justice, including the mass movements of the 1960s and 70s. Many political prisoners and prisoners of war featured in this calendar were organizers during that period: members of the Black Panther Party or the American Indian Movement, Puerto Ricans fighting for their homeland, or white anti-racist allies working in solidarity with oppressed peoples. Many of them have been in prison SINCE THAT TIME - 30 years or more. Yet these prisoners are not relics of past movements. They are still active in their political work, and despite the hardships of organizing in prison, they continue to organize for justice in the present day: justice behind bars and justice on the streets. This calendar is our tribute to them.

**Free all political prisoners! Free all prisoners of war!**

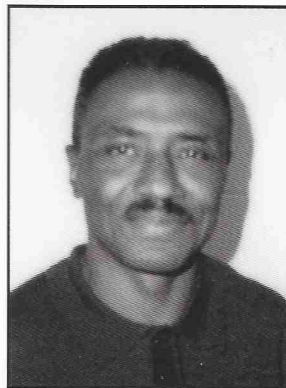
**Robert Seth Hayes** was arrested in 1973, after police opened fire on his apartment while he was home with his wife and children. This occurred as a result of the U.S. government's illegal Counterintelligence Program (COINTELPRO), in a climate dominated by portrayals of black militants as murderers and cop-killers. Seth, a former member of the Black Panther Party, was convicted for the death of a NYC transit cop and for the attempted murder of the cops who stormed his apartment. He received a sentence of 25 years to life, and is being held at Sullivan Correctional Facility in Fallsburg, New York. In 1998, Seth was diagnosed with diabetes, and has been struggling with prison administrators to get decent healthcare for his disease. Seth became eligible for parole in 1998, but despite an excellent prison record, Seth's seventh bid for parole was denied in 2010. Over the past year, Seth has struggled to receive medical intervention for both his Hepatitis C and poorly managed diabetes.

[kersplebedeb.com/sethayes](http://kersplebedeb.com/sethayes)



Robert Seth Hayes  
#74A2280  
Sullivan Correctional Facility  
P.O. Box 116  
Fallsburg, New York  
12733-0116 USA

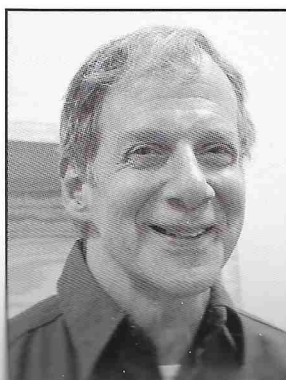
**Herman Bell** has been a U.S. political prisoner for over 42 years. A former Black Panther, he was involved with political community work and subsequently went underground because of relentless FBI and police attacks on the Party. Herman was captured in New Orleans in 1973 and illegally extradited to New York to stand trial with Albert Nuh Washington, Jalil Muntaqim, Francisco Torres and Gabriel Torres on charges of killing two NYC police. Though the jury could not reach a verdict the first time, the NY District Attorney persisted and used many illegal tactics to obtain convictions for Herman, Jalil and Nuh. Herman was also a founder, along with Carol Dove and Michael Vernon, and core member of the Victory Gardens Project, a collaboration between inner city and rural community groups in the northeastern U.S., in which food, as the organizing tool, was grown and distributed free of charge back into the communities. Herman has been denied parole 6 times (since 2004). In spite of his remarkable achievements while imprisoned, the denials are based solely on the original charge of his conviction, something he cannot change. He goes to the board again in 2016 and continues to support the Release Aging Prisoners Project and The SAFE Parole Act, both of which would help thousands of New York State elder prisoners obtain long-deserved release on parole.  
[freehermanbell.org](http://freehermanbell.org)



Herman Bell  
#79-C-0262  
Great Meadow Correctional Facility  
11739 State Route 22, P.O. Box 51  
Comstock, New York  
12821-0051 USA

**David Gilbert** is a longtime anti-imperialist. He became active around the civil rights movement in 1960, and later organized against the Vietnam War. He spent 10 years as part of an underground resistance to imperialism. Working as an anti-racist ally of the Black Liberation Army in 1981, David and others were captured in connection with an attempted expropriation (theft for political reasons) of a Brink's truck in Nyack, NY. David was sentenced to 75 years to life and is currently being held at Auburn, a maximum-security prison in New York State. In 1986, David became active as an advocate and educator around AIDS in prison after his codefendant Kuwasi Balagoon died suddenly of AIDS while still in custody. He is the author of *No Surrender: Writings from an Anti-Imperialist Political Prisoner* (AK Press) as well as *Love and Struggle: My Life in SDS, the Weather Underground and Beyond* (PM Press). He is also the subject of a mini-documentary, "Lifetime of Struggle," which is available from Freedom Archives ([freedomarchives.org](http://freedomarchives.org)). He reprinted his 2014 calendar article as a pamphlet (featuring an interview with Bob Feldman), "Our Commitment Is to Our Communities: Mass Incarceration, Political Prisoners, and Building a Movement for Community-based Justice."

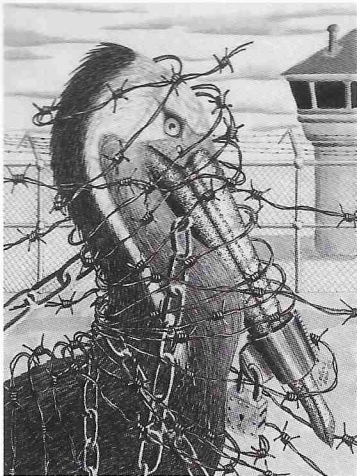
It can be ordered from Kersplebedeb ([leftwingbooks.net](http://leftwingbooks.net)).



David Gilbert  
#83-A-6158  
Auburn Correctional Facility  
P.O. Box 618  
Auburn, New York  
13021 USA



# Certain Days 2016: Internationalism, Solidarity and Global Struggle



The theme for Certain Days 2016—Internationalism, Solidarity and Global Struggle—has been quite some time in the making. For several years now, political prisoner and calendar co-creator David Gilbert has been advocating for a calendar on internationalism, and rightly so: since oppression is global, so too must be our struggle against it. Radicals of David's generation, including a great many of the political prisoners incarcerated in North America today, came to their politics at a time when peoples around the

world were rising up against colonial rule, and the sparks from those rebellions ignited movements ranging from Black Power, to Gay Liberation, to resistance against the war in Vietnam. Today, a half-century later, capitalism is all the more globalized, and the need to unite has never been greater.

Here in the heartland of imperialism, internationalism is often taken to mean supporting the struggles of those with less privilege and resources, but solidarity is a two way street: it's about making concrete daily connections between our own liberation and that of others. There are many lessons to be learned, and much inspiration to be drawn, from those closer to the front lines. That said, in the context of colonialism, internationalism cannot be limited to acting in solidarity with people in far away lands. It must be rooted in an engagement with Indigenous struggles in the places we live, as well as those of migrants displaced from their homelands by war, environmental destruction and poverty.

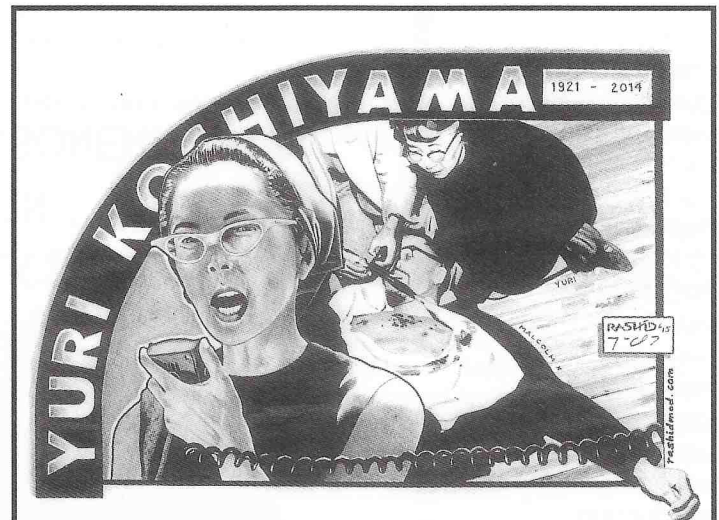
Since the mass media are controlled by the elite, many important and inspiring struggles remain hidden from view—distorted and vilified, or altogether invisible. We need to forge connections in order to support each other and exchange ideas. Part of our purpose with this edition of Certain Days is to highlight projects and campaign that readers may not be aware of, such as the campaign to stop the extradition of Colombian political prisoners to the U.S. under the guise of the war on drugs (see article page 9). The domestic outcome of the war on drugs is mass incarceration of poor and racialized people. One foreign policy outcome is this wave of extraditions, which—unsurprisingly—results in even more poor racialized people behind bars. If people on different ends of the process can come together, our resistance could be stronger.

As the anti-extradition campaign illustrates both symbolically and concretely, there is a strong analogy between solidarity across borders and solidarity across prison walls. Borders, like prison walls, are fences put in place by the state to keep people repressed and divided. The same forces can oppress people on different sides of the world, within and outside prisons. In the week following Prisoners Justice Day, as we were putting this calendar together, we got a poignant reminder of this: we received the news that both Peter Collins and Hugo 'Yogi Bear' Pinell had died in prison. Peter was Canada's foremost prisoner-activist, using his visual art, writing and radio interviews to give voice to issues from Canada's prison system,

to HIV, to the epidemic of murdered and missing Indigenous women. He died of cancer that was diagnosed far too late by Corrections Canada's health services. Yogi was one of the San Quentin Six—the six prisoners involved in the 1971 prison break in which George Jackson was killed. He was also the longest serving prisoner in solitary confinement in California, at over 40 years. He was stabbed in the prison yard, mere days after being released in general population.

Just four years earlier, Yogi had been instrumental in organizing the hunger strikes against long term solidarity confinement that started in Pelican Bay prison and spread all across California. Almost three thousand miles away in Bath prison in Canada, Peter Collins painted the image of a pelican, its beak snared shut with barbed wire, that became widely associated with the Pelican Bay hunger strike. An act of solidarity across distance, across the border, across two sets of prison walls. This image, and the interconnectedness of our struggles that it symbolizes, has remained in our thoughts as we mourn Peter and Yogi while readying this calendar for print.

-Certain Days Collective (Sara Falconer, Helen Hudson, Amy Schwartz, karen emily suurtamm)



*Yuri Kochiyama died in June 2014 at age 93, after a life-long involvement in radical organizing. Having been interned by the U.S. government during World War II as the daughter of Japanese immigrants, Yuri went on to be deeply involved in Puerto Rican, Black and other liberation movements, as well as the fight to win reparations for Japanese internment. Remembering her commitment to internationalism, we wanted to include this beautiful portrait of Yuri by Kevin 'Rashid' Johnson—jailhouse lawyer and artist, and minister of defence for the New Afrikan Black Panther Party prison chapter.*



# proceeds

**this  
calendar is  
a fundraiser**

*all of our proceeds  
will be divided  
between  
the following  
organizations:*

**ADDAMEER** (Arabic for conscience) Prisoners Support and Human Rights Association is a Palestinian non-governmental, civil institution which focuses on human rights issues. Established in 1992 by a group of activists interested in human rights, the center's activities focus on offering support for Palestinian prisoners, advocating the rights of political prisoners, and working to end torture through monitoring, legal procedures and solidarity campaigns.

[addameer.org](http://addameer.org)

## THE NEW YORK STATE TASK FORCE ON POLITICAL PRISONERS

works for the release of political prisoners. We focus on those in New York prisons and those whose arrests occurred in New York. All but one of these political prisoners are past members of the Black Panther Party and Republic of New Afrika and have spent more than 40 years in prison. The Task Force includes former political prisoners, representatives of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, and progressive lawyers dedicated to social justice.

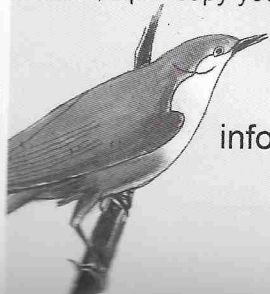
NY State Task Force on Political Prisoners, c/o MXGM  
c/o The Bandedes  
66 Van Buren Street  
Brooklyn, NY  
11221 USA

(all cheques should be made to  
Malcolm X Grassroots Movement  
with NYSTFPP in the subject line).

### **Sell Certain Days & raise funds for your project/group**

distribute the calendar in your community  
sell the calendar at your events

**Bulk orders (10+ copies) \$8 each**  
Make \$4 per copy you sell



**contact us**  
[info@certaindays.org](mailto:info@certaindays.org)

**order directly**  
[certaindays.org](http://certaindays.org)

Thanks to all who have made this  
calendar possible, including

Addameer  
Ali Cat. Leeds  
Aric McBay  
Beit Zatoun  
Bernadine Dohrn  
Bill Ayers  
Blandine Fuchs  
Bristol ABC  
Burning Books  
Cecelia Chapman  
Chris Dixon  
Claude Marks  
Cristina Palabay  
Dan Berger  
Dan Walsh  
Daniel McGowan  
Eleanor Stein  
Emy Storey  
Entangled Roots Press  
Freda Guttman  
Freedom Archives  
Giselle Dias  
Hatem Abudayyeh  
Jaggi Singh  
Jeff Crouch  
Jeff Jones  
Jess Chen  
JustSeeds  
Ka Yan Cheung  
Karl Kersplebedeb  
Kinga Osz-Kemp  
Leslie James Pickering  
Mark Rudin  
May First Tech Collective  
Melanie Cervantes  
Nancy Jacot-Bell  
Naomi Jaffe  
Nate Buckley  
Noah E.  
Peter Collins  
Projet Accompagnement  
Solidarité Colombie (PASC)  
QPIRG Concordia  
Rasmea Odeh  
Ray Luc Levasseur  
Sandra Cuffe  
Sarah Malik  
Socialist Project  
Status for All Coalition  
Syed Hussan  
Tasha Zamudio  
Tings Chak  
Tom Manning  
Tynan Jarrett  
Vikki Law



# updates

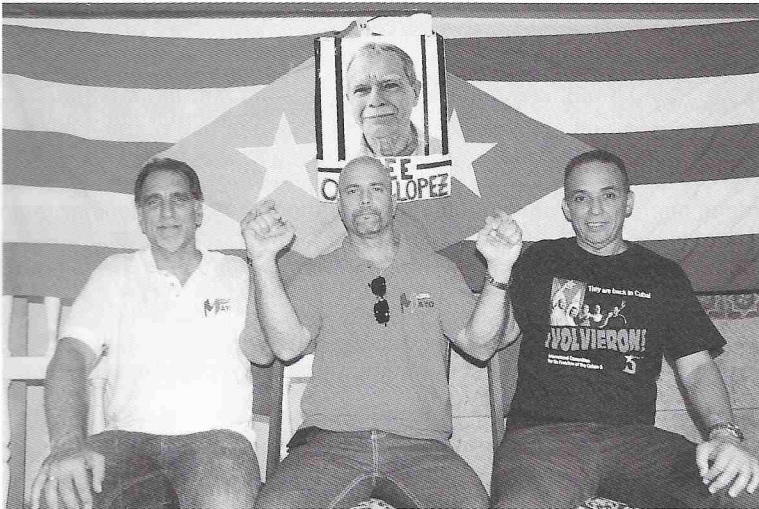
April 16: **Brent Betterly**, the second of NATO 3 to be released (three Occupy activists arrested prior to the 2012 NATO summit in Chicago). [freethenato3.wordpress.com](http://freethenato3.wordpress.com)

## REST IN POWER

Phil Africa, Yogi Bear (Hugo Pinell) and Peter Collins

See our introduction on page 2 for words on **Peter Collins** and **Hugo Pinell**.

On January 10, 2015, **Phil Africa**, revolutionary, John Africa's First Minister of Defense, and beloved brother, husband and father, passed away under suspicious circumstances at the State Correctional Institution at Dallas, PA. Phil will never be forgotten and this is not the end; he is dearly missed but his strong example should inspire everyone to fight harder for the freedom of the MOVE 9 and all political prisoners. [onamove.com](http://onamove.com)



## DECEMBER 2014: CUBAN 5 RELEASED

"We still face the battle to free **Oscar López** too, so that he can enjoy freedom as we do today. We still have **Mumia Abu-Jamal**. We still have **Leonard Peltier**. We still have other compañeros who are political prisoners. The committees in solidarity with the Five that supported us so much must see what we can do to end these injustices too. - **Gerardo Hernandez**

## 2015 RELEASES

January 8: After serving nearly 10 years in prison, anarchist **Eric McDavid** freed when it became known that the FBI had failed to disclose potentially exculpatory evidence to the defense. [supporteric.org](http://supporteric.org)

January 15: **Norberto Gonzalez Claudio** released from prison, and began his journey back home to Puerto Rico. [prolibertadweb.org](http://prolibertadweb.org)

January 16: After spending nearly two decades in federal prison **Tsutomu Shirotsuki** released to an immigration facility, and later deported to Japan.

January 27: **Marissa Alexander**, a survivor of domestic violence from Jacksonville, FL, spent 3 years behind bars for defending her life from an abusive husband. [freemarissanow.org](http://freemarissanow.org)

March 13: Anarchist prisoners **Carlos López**, **Amélie Pelletier** and **Fallon Poisson** released from Mexico City (Amélie and Fallon deported back to Canada). [325.nostate.net](http://325.nostate.net)

May 16: Plowshares prisoners **Megan Rice**, **Michael Walli** and **Greg Boertje-Obed** released. 85 year-old activist nun Rice told *Mother Jones* that it felt "Not that much different, because none of us is free... and it looks like we are going to go on being un-free for as long as there is a nuclear weapon waiting."

June 1: **Kevin Chianella** (from Queens, NY) released after a 2 year prison sentence for his participation in the G20 protests in Toronto in 2010.

## NEW AND ONGOING CASES

January 21: U.S. journalist **Barrett Brown** sentenced to 5 years 3 months, for charges related to the 2011 Stratfor hack. [freebarrettbrown.org](http://freebarrettbrown.org)

January 22: **Jason Hammond** sentenced to 41 months in prison after accepting a non-cooperating guilty plea for his role in a militant direct action directed at white supremacists in the suburb of Tinley Park. [freejasonhammond.blogspot.com](http://freejasonhammond.blogspot.com)

March 12: Palestinian activist **Rasmea Odeh** sentenced to 18 months for allegedly giving false answers on her immigration applications (see her article on the April page of the calendar).

June 12: After over 43 years of solitary confinement and wrongful conviction, U.S. District Court ruled that the Angola 3's **Albert Woodfox** be released. As of calendar printing time, the Court has extended a stay of release. [angola3.org](http://angola3.org)

July: **Kevin Johnson** and **Tyler Lang** pleaded guilty to charged under the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. They each face up to 5 years. [supportkevinandtyler.com](http://supportkevinandtyler.com)

**Trans justice** - March 5: Army Court orders military to stop using male pronouns when referring to **Chelsea Manning**. In a major development in her case against the Department of Defense, she was also started on a regimen of hormone therapy. [chelseamanning.org](http://chelseamanning.org)

March and Rally for **Oscar López Rivera** - May 30: Over 5 thousand people gathered in New York City to demand the release of Puerto Rican activist Oscar López, a 72-year-old decorated Vietnam veteran who is serving his 34th year in prison despite having never been charged with any violent crime. [freeoscarnycmay30.org](http://freeoscarnycmay30.org)

## MEDICAL NEGLECT

See [powmedicaljustice.com](http://powmedicaljustice.com) for updates.

Supporters of **Robert Seth Hayes** successfully pressured authorities for medical intervention for both his Hepatitis C and poorly managed diabetes. As of calendar printing time, Seth is still suffering from undiagnosed and untreated chronic bleeding and abdominal growths.

Five months after being rushed to the hospital, new medical tests in August 2015 showed that **Mumia Abu-Jamal** has active Hepatitis C. But prison officials are refusing to treat him for it. He was held incommunicado from family, attorneys and doctor.

## PAROLE DENIALS

January 21: Michael Africa

February 5: Sundiata Apollo

June 27: Delbert Africa





## Some Thoughts on Prisons & Political Prisoners

*We offer the following thoughts and terms not as perfect or cast-in-stone definitions, but as a starting point for discussions on how the prison system functions. More analysis can be found in the resources below. Our thanks to friends of the calendar who helped us to revise our previous list of working definitions.*

Make no mistake about it, today's bloated and brutal prison system isn't broken. It's doing exactly what it's intended to do: keep people repressed and divided so that capitalism can continue to roll forward. The ruling class, feeling threatened by the high tide of resistance in the late 1960s, launched a vicious counter-offensive to turn back the revolutionary movements spearheaded by the **Black liberation struggle**. The U.S. government's illegal programs, such as **COINTELPRO**, to kill, imprison, or disrupt radical activists were soon followed by the "**wars**" on **crime and drugs**. Thus it's no accident that the number of people being imprisoned began its breathtaking ascent in the early 1970s, at a time when the vested economic interests of the prison industrial complex were still relatively minuscule. The decimation of revolutionary leadership and the giant holes left by mass incarceration have been terribly destructive to the Black, Latino/a and Indigenous communities.

Canada has followed suit when it comes to getting "tough on crime," though the **realities in Canada and the U.S. are not identical**. Importantly, the ways in which Canada's colonial strategies have differed from those of the U.S.—particularly the legacy of residential schools—have led to Indigenous people being incarcerated in much greater numbers (proportional to each country's population) both overall, as well as within other categories of oppressed people, such as women, youth, and people living with mental health or addiction issues.

We who want a just society, where the human spirit can flourish, need to challenge both the holding of political prisoners and the travesty of incarceration overall.

**Political Prisoner (PP):** Someone who is held in confinement for actions, support of, or membership in a group struggling for freedom from oppression, an oppressive government, or exploitation of peoples, animals or the Earth. PPs were active in liberation movements prior to their imprisonment.

**Prisoner of War (POW):** Someone held in confinement for armed struggle in support of people struggling for self-determination or independence from an oppressive, colonial, or racist governmental regime or its policies. Some class war prisoners identify as prisoners of war.

**Politicized prisoners:** Many prisoners—such as Ruchell Cinque Magee, George Jackson, Peter Collins, and the Angola Three—were not initially imprisoned for their political actions but became politically conscious and active while in prison. Despite harsh state repression for their organizing, many such prisoners are leading nationwide struggles in the U.S. against prolonged isolation (torture), such as the Pelican Bay hunger strikers who led a unified action of over 30,000 people in California.

The distinction between PPs, POWs, and politicized prisoners is fluid and arguably quite arbitrary: all contribute to movements for justice within and outside prison, and need our solidarity as all are continually subject to state repression. Politically active prisoners contribute to liberation movements as writers, artists, jailhouse lawyers, through HIV/AIDS peer education programs, study groups, and more. They are instrumental in educating people outside prison about conditions on the inside. This is the interplay between mass incarceration and political imprisonment: support of politically active prisoners and broader work to dismantle the prison system are tightly intertwined.

**We believe that all forms of imprisonment are political**, as the so-called "justice" system and its prisons are state weapons of social control. In Canada and the United States—and elsewhere around the world—people are targeted by the police and sent to prison in the context of capitalism, colonialism, white supremacy, patriarchy, homophobia, and transphobia. It is therefore no surprise that Indigenous people, people of colour, youth, trans and gender non-conforming people, and poor people are disproportionately represented in prison.

**Gender and prison:** Though overall there are far fewer women in prison than men, their rates of incarceration are growing faster than those of men both in Canada and the U.S. Most women in prison are mothers. The majority are in prison for economic crimes, such as cheque forgery and illegal credit card use. Of the women convicted of violent crimes, the vast majority were defending themselves or their children from abuse. On a community level, poor women and racialized women are also impacted by men's incarceration as they are left to care and provide for stressed/traumatized families alone in a depressed economy.

**Trans people are overrepresented in the prison system** due to acts of self-defence and crimes of poverty associated with being marginalized, as well as with the high costs of transitioning. Out of all trans people, trans women of colour are the most overrepresented in the prison system. These women are also the most likely to face violence in prison—from guards as well as other inmates. Since prisons are gender-segregated, transgender and gender non-conforming people most frequently end up being held in institutions that don't match their gender, and are placed in "protective custody" (i.e. solitary confinement). Trans people in prison are often denied access to healthcare needs such as hormones and gender reassignment surgery.

**Queer people** are also overrepresented in the prison system—particularly those who are trans, people of colour, youth and/or poor people. Queer people in prison are subject to extremely high rates of humiliation and other violence—including sexualized violence.

**Migrant detention** criminalizes asylum seekers for fleeing from conditions created by the same governments who now detain them: war, poverty, environmental devastation. The constant threat of detention and deportation is used as a tool of social control to keep migrant communities compliant. Racial profiling is tightly bound up with this, even for those who have citizenship: from the internment of citizens of Japanese origin in both the U.S. and Canada during WWII to the current systemic targeting of Arabs, Muslims, and people of South Asian descent, imprisonment is used against people who are deemed "undesirable" or politically threatening to the social order.

**Mental health and incarceration:** People living with mental illness are overrepresented in the prison system in both Canada and the U.S. Being involuntarily remanded to a psychiatric hospital is in itself a form of incarceration, with many of the same injustices as the "correctional" system—long wait times for hearings, inadequate legal representation and explanation of rights, and systemic sexism and racism. As mental health services (both those accessed voluntarily and involuntary ones) are cut, people with mental health or addiction issues are increasingly locked up in general-population prisons, where they receive no treatment of any kind, and where life inside and/or sudden withdrawal from their medications worsens their conditions. What's more, who gets remanded into psych wards versus who gets imprisoned for the same set of circumstances reflects social oppressions (gender, radicalization, economic status, indigeneity).





**Aging prison population:** Because keeping people in prison serves capitalists' needs, not many people get paroled. The U.S. in particular metes out some of the longest prison sentences in the world. Politically active prisoners, especially, are singled out for de facto life-without-parole sentences, even though most continue to go before the parole board time after time. As the prison population ages, more and more prisoners are facing health and disability issues, and increasing numbers of people are dying behind bars. Medical neglect, substandard care, poor diet, lack of exercise, and the stress of being incarcerated all exacerbate the health risks that come with growing older. Requests for medical attention or

accommodation for disability are often ignored by prison staff, further reducing prisoners' chances of healing or living comfortably with their health issues or disabilities.

**Prison represses not only those behind bars, but whole communities:** by taking parents away from children, wage earners out of families, and elders out of neighbourhoods. The economic and social stresses this causes mean that people from communities that have already been ravaged by the prison system are much more likely to end up in prison themselves.

## SOME BOOKS WE LIKE:

*Escaping the Prism: Fade to Black.* Jalil Muntaqim. AK Press and Kersplebedeb.

*Love & Struggle: My Life in SDS, the Weather Underground, & Beyond.* David Gilbert. PM Press.

*Lucasville: The Untold Story of a Prison Uprising*, 2nd edition. Staughton Lynd. PM Press.

*Defying the Tomb: Selected Prison Writings & Art of Kevin Rashid Johnson featuring exchanges with an Outlaw.* Kersplebedeb.

*Resistance Behind Bars: The Struggles of Incarcerated Women.* Vikki Law. PM Press.

*Settlers: The Mythology of the White Proletariat.* J. Sakai. Morningstar Press.

*Are Prisons Obsolete?* Angela Davis. Open Media.

*Assata.* Assata Shakur. Lawrence Hill Books.

*Wild Poppies: A Poetry Jam Across Prison Walls.* (CD) Marilyn Buck. Freedom Archives.

*Fascism, Blood in My Eye, & Soledad Brother.* George Jackson.

*Igniting a Revolution: Voices in Defense of the Earth.* Ed. Steven Best & Anthony J. Nocella, II. AK Press.

*Between Torture and Resistance.* Oscar Lopez Rivera. PM Press.

*Let Freedom Ring: A Collection of Documents from the Movements to Free U.S. Political Prisoners. Resistance in Brooklyn.* PM Press/Kersplebedeb.

*The War Before: The Writings & Speeches of Safiya Bukhari.* ed. Laura Whitehorn. Feminist Press.

*Green is the New Red.* Will Potter. City Lights Publishers.

*Prison Writings: My Life is a Sun Dance.* Leonard Peltier. St. Martin's Griffin.

*Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex.* Ed. Eric A. Stanley and Nat Smith. AK Press.

*Normal Life: Administrative Violence, Critical Trans Politics and the Limits of Law.* Dean Spade. South End Press.

*Maroon the Implacable: The Collected Writings of Russell Maroon Shoatz.* PM Press.

*Out of Control: A Fifteen-Year Battle Against Control Unit Prisons.* Nancy Kurshan. Freedom Archives.

*A Soldier's Story: Writings By A Revolutionary New Afrikan Anarchist.* Kuwasi Balagoon. Kersplebedeb.

*Jailhouse Lawyers: Prisoners Defending Prisoners v. the USA.* Mumia Abu-Jamal. City Lights Publishers.

*Flying Close to the Sun: My Life and Times as a Weatherman.* Cathy Wilkerson. Seven Stories Press.

*The Struggle Within: Prisons, Political Prisoners, and Mass Movements in the United States.* Dan Berger. PM Press.

*Prison Roundtrip.* Klaus Viehmann. Kersplebedeb Publishing.

*Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West.* Dee Brown. Picador.

*An American Radical: A Political Prisoner in My Own Country.* Susan Rosenberg. Citadel.

*The New Jim Crow.* Michelle Alexander. The New Press.

*An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States.* Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. Beacon Press.

*The Struggle Within: Prisons, Political Prisoners, and Mass Movements in the United States.* Dan Berger. PM Press.

*Undoing Border Imperialism.* Harsha Walia. AK Press.

*Disability Incarcerated: Imprisonment and Disability in the United States and Canada.* Palgrave Macmillan. Ed. Liat Ben-Moshe, Chris Chapman, and Allison C. Carey.

*The Real Cost of Prisons Comix.* Ed. Lois Ahrens. PM Press.

## WEBSITES:

**Anarchist Black Cross Federation** [abcf.net](http://abcf.net)

**Denver Anarchist Black Cross** [denverabc.wordpress.com](http://denverabc.wordpress.com)

**New York Anarchist Black Cross** [nycabc.wordpress.com](http://nycabc.wordpress.com)

**National Jericho Movement** [thejerichomovement.com](http://thejerichomovement.com)

**Open Door Books** [opendoorbooks.wordpress.com](http://opendoorbooks.wordpress.com)

**Prison Justice** [prisonjustice.ca](http://prisonjustice.ca)

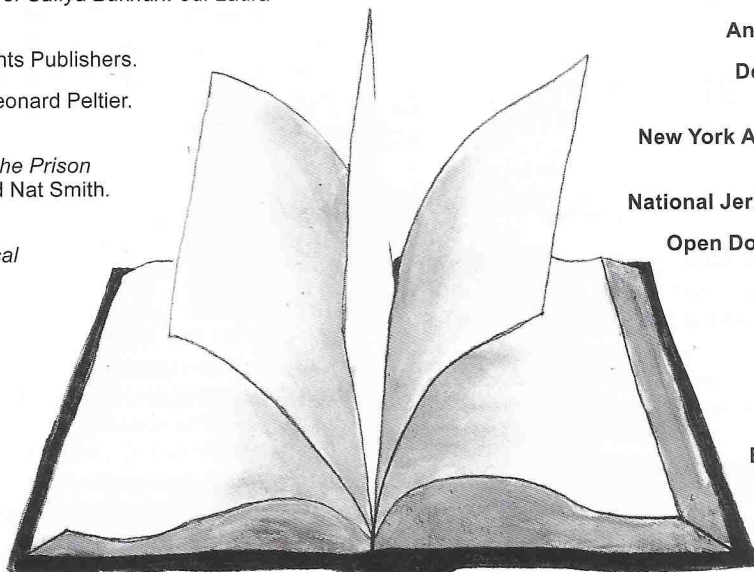
**Prison Policy Initiative** [prisonpolicy.org](http://prisonpolicy.org)

**Tracking the Politics of 'Crime' & Punishment in Canada** [tpcp-canada.blogspot.com](http://tpcp-canada.blogspot.com)

**Books To Prisoners** [bookstoprisoners.net](http://bookstoprisoners.net)

[4strugglemag.org](http://4strugglemag.org)

**A longer list of books and websites is available at [certaindays.org](http://certaindays.org), or can be mailed to you upon request**



# resources



# Hallmarks of the Peoples' Global Action

# January



1. A very clear rejection of capitalism, imperialism, and feudalism; all trade agreements, institutions and governments that promote destructive globalization;

2. We reject all forms and systems of domination and discrimination including, but not limited to, patriarchy, racism, and religious fundamentalism of all creeds. We embrace the full dignity of all human beings.

3. A confrontational attitude, since we do not think that lobbying can have a major impact in such biased and undemocratic organizations, in which transnational capital is the only real policy-maker;

4. A call to direct action and civil disobedience, support for social movements' struggles, advocating forms of resistance which maximize respect for life and oppressed peoples' rights, as well as the construction of local alternatives to global capitalism;

5. An organizational philosophy based on decentralization and autonomy.

## Principes de l'AMP

1. Un rejet très clair du féodalisme, du capitalisme, et de l'impérialisme, ainsi que de tous les accords commerciaux, institutions et gouvernements promoteurs d'une mondialisation destructrice.

2. Un rejet très clair de toutes formes et systèmes de domination et de discrimination dont (et de manière non exhaustive) le patriarcat, le racisme, et le fondamentalisme religieux de toutes croyances. Nous reconnaissons la dignité entière de tous les êtres humains.

3. Une attitude de confrontation, puisque nous ne pensons pas que le «lobbying» puisse avoir un impact majeur sur des organisations à tel point partiales et antidémocratiques, pour lesquelles le capital transnational est le seul facteur réel déterminant leur politique.

4. Un appel à l'action directe et à la désobéissance civile, au soutien aux luttes des mouvements sociaux, mettant en avant

des formes de résistance qui maximisent le respect pour la vie et pour les droits des peuples opprimés, ainsi qu'à la construction d'alternatives locales au capitalisme mondial.

5. Une philosophie organisationnelle fondée sur la décentralisation et l'autonomie.

## Principios de la AGP

1. Un rechazo muy claro del capitalismo, el imperialismo y el feudalismo; de todos los acuerdos comerciales, instituciones y gobiernos que promueven una globalización destructiva.

2. Rechazamos todas las formas y sistemas de dominación y discriminación incluyendo, pero no limitándonos a, patriarcado, racismo y fundamentalismo religioso de todos los credos. Abrazamos la plena dignidad de todos los seres humanos.

3. Una actitud de confrontación, dado que no pensamos que los grupos de presión (lobbying) puedan tener un impacto importante en tales organizaciones sesgadas y no democráticas, en las cuáles el capital transnacional es el único real hacedor de política.

4. Un llamamiento a la acción directa y la desobediencia civil y apoyo a las luchas de los movimientos sociales, abogando por formas de resistencia con el máximo respeto por la vida y los derechos de los pueblos oprimidos, así como la construcción de alternativas locales al capitalismo global.

5. Una filosofía organizativa basada en la descentralización y la autonomía. AGP es un instrumento para la coordinación, no una organización. AGP no tiene miembros y no tiene ni tendrá personalidad jurídica. Ninguna organización ni personalidad representa a la AGP.

## authOr

### Peoples' Global Action (PGA)

From the 23rd to the 26th of February of 1998, grassroots movements of all continents met in Geneva to launch a worldwide coordination network of resistance to the global market, a new alliance of struggle and solidarity called Peoples' Global Action against "free" trade and the WTO (PGA). That was the birth of this global tool for communication and coordination for all those who fight the destruction of humanity and the planet by capitalism and build local alternatives to globalisation.

## Ka Yan Cheung

was born in Hong Kong and grew up in NYC. She comes from a family of garment and restaurant workers, and watching her family members struggle each day moved her towards radical politics. She

spent eight years doing community and labor organizing in the San Francisco Bay Area. Comics is her favorite medium, because she considers it an art for the people. She is currently working on a graphic novel about three generations of women in her family. Connect with her at KayanCheung.tumblr.com

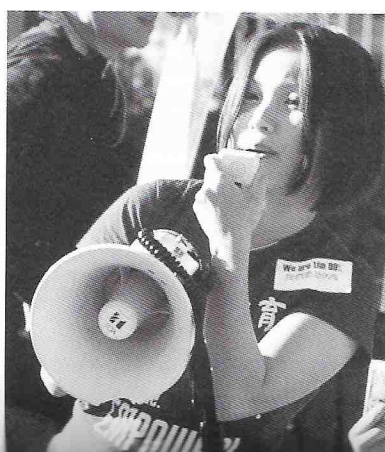
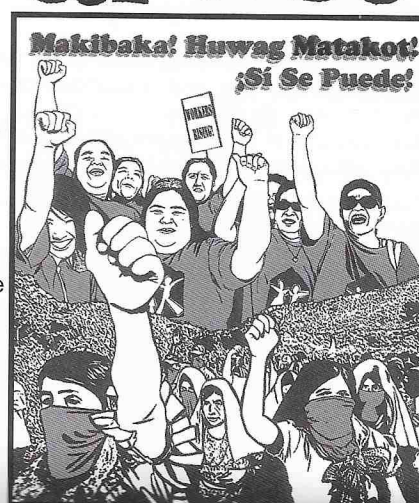


Photo credits for her piece: Ruth Robertson and Oriana Eligabe

## artist





# Campaign for Sovereignty; Stop Extradition

Extradition: An obstacle to the political resolution of the conflict and a mechanism of impunity

Extradition is a legal mechanism related to certain political interests. It has been useful to uphold imperialist world order. Although regarded as an instrument of "cooperation" between states, its implementation has demonstrated a false reciprocity that reflects the inequality in the current international climate. As a consequence, this mechanism jeopardizes democracy, the defence of human rights, and peace building.

Far from being a neutral, legal and effective figure at the service of justice, extradition has been used against the principles of sovereignty and peoples' self-determination.

In Colombia, many prisoners have extradited to the U.S. to face trial. It has frequently been understood as a legal mechanism for the war on drugs; however, not everyone handed over by the government are big drug business capos. On the contrary: various trials, in American courts, have involved humble people falsely accused of trafficking cocaine and asset laundering. In addition, although the number of hectares of illicit crops has dropped in the past ten years, Colombia, today, is the second-largest drug producer in the world, showing that the business continues as a transnational enterprise of capitalism, even though their visible leaders have been convicted abroad.

Beyond the unforgivable mistakes made by the United States' federal police, and the lack of effective control by Colombian authorities when a request for extradition takes place, the application of extradition has brought major problems. For example, the access to truth and justice for

victims of grave human rights violations. Another difficulty is related to achieving a political solution to overcome the conflict, as extradition represents a threat against guerrilla members who are taking steps towards the building of a new society without the use of weapons.

In the past, extradition was already applied as a tool to pressure rebel organizations. This was clear in the case of FARC-EP commander Simon Trinidad, as well as in the silencing of several paramilitary commanders who owe the country the truth about people involved in the perpetration of bloody crimes against the Colombian population.

Despite what has been said and documented about the role of both the United States' government and its corporations in the internal armed conflict, in Colombia, there is very little interest from the justice department to investigate and punish foreigners responsible for crimes that constitute human rights violations against Colombians.

Thus, there are compelling reasons to oppose the extradition of any Colombian citizen. First, for the sake of sovereignty and self-determination. Second, to ensure full respect of the rights of those deprived of liberty. And third, in order to move towards truth and justice for victims of state crimes.

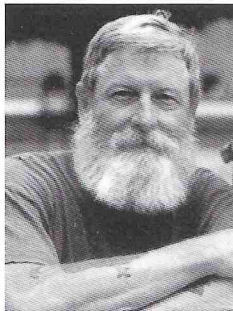
Sovereignty of the people is not an empty concept; it is a necessary condition to achieve peace with social justice. Stop extradition!

## Tom Manning artist

is an anti-imperialist revolutionary who was active in the United Freedom Front, a clandestine anti-imperialist organization that carried out targeted bombings of corporate buildings, courthouses and military facilities and also carried out bank robberies to fund revolutionary projects.

He was unjustly sentenced to 80 years in prison for killing a New Jersey state trooper in self-defense. He published a collection of his art, titled *For Love and Liberty* (Inkworks Press, 2014).

Thomas Manning  
#10373-016  
FMC Butner,  
Federal Medical Center  
P.O. Box 1600  
Butner, NC  
USA 27509



## Projet Accompagne- ment Solidarité Colombie (PASC)

Born out of the continent-wide organizing against the free trade agreements of the early 2000s, the PASC confronts Canadian imperialist interests in the ongoing Colombian conflict. PASC facilitates letter-writing with political prisoner groups, visits to Colombian prisoners and their families, accompanies political prisoners and the Committee in Solidarity with Political Prisoners (CSPP) and disseminates texts, videos and witness statements of political prisoners.

## author



7.500 Pres@s polític@s  
en Colombia: ¡Libertad!



## La Via Campesina (International Peasant's Movement)

# march

Global agribusiness is wrecking the environment and at the same time causing widespread hunger. Since the earliest days of colonialism and continuing today, major commercial interests have been taking over land that was used to grow a diversity of foods for local use to instead produce cash crops for export. Such "monoculture" is inherently soil-exhausting and is a major factor in the deadly spread of deserts in Africa. This system relies on extensive chemical inputs for fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides; on heavy machinery; and on profligate amounts of water. World agriculture today emits more greenhouse gases than cars, trucks, planes, and trains combined. Yet—criminally and inexcusably—850 million human beings are going hungry.

As we face this terrible catastrophe in process, the colossal economic and political power of the giant corporations raking in billions of dollars in profits may seem overwhelming. But the struggle is far from hopeless. The vast majority in the world are oppressed by the system and many, especially in the Global South, understand that and want to see fundamental changes. In terms of food production, close to half of humanity are small farmers ("peasants"), local fisherfolk, and Indigenous peoples. A vital organization emerged in the 1990s to fight for their interests. La Via Campesina (LVC) is composed of 164 local and national organizations in 73 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

Of course, "small farmers" encompasses quite a range of individuals and perspectives, but LVC maintains very clear and righteous basic principles. In 1996 they launched the concept of "food sovereignty," which includes sustainability

but also entails people's rights to determine how their land is used to ensure that adequate and culturally valued food is grown for those living in the region. LVC fights for land redistribution to small farmers (their Brazilian affiliate, the Landless Workers Movement, is a leading, militant example) and for Indigenous peoples' self-determination to control their lands and livelihoods. Food sovereignty is also the best road to environmentally sound farming; LVC advocates "agro-ecology," based on traditional approaches suited to local conditions and involving crop diversity, combined with modern, organic methods of soil, water, and pest management.

Women's liberation is not only central to justice in the world, but is also crucial for this movement. Women, mainly on small farms, grow 70 percent of the world's food, but are marginalized and oppressed by global capitalism and patriarchy. LVC struggles against all forms of violence against women and for gender equality at all levels. Their International Coordinating Committee, with two representatives elected from each of nine regions, is mandated to have an equal number of women and men.

Such a diverse and extensive organization inevitably faces many complexities and challenges as they strive to maintain democratic methods and try to supplement grass roots funding while being cautious about the danger of manipulation by foundations. Yet LVC is a prime example of international solidarity based on the interests of the oppressed that shows us that "another"—more humane and sustainable—"world is possible."

---

## author



**David  
Gilbert**

Please see  
David's bio on  
page 1 of the  
calendar.

The author  
would like to  
thank Karl  
Kersplebedeb  
for providing  
research  
materials.



**Melanie Cervantes** is a Xicana activist-artist whose role is to translate the hopes and dreams of justice movements into images that are life-affirming and that inspire people to take action. Melanie is the co-founder of Dignidad Rebelde, a collaborative graphic arts project that translates stories of struggle and resistance into artwork that can be put back into the hands of the communities who inspire it.

## artist





# Prevailing Against Incarceration and Isolation in Israel, Palestine, and the United States

I am a Palestinian woman. I was born and grew up in a war zone, under Israel's illegal colonial military occupation and its oppressive and racist practices. The Israelis committed massacres and expelled us from our homes and land at gunpoint in 1947–1948. All the children of thousands of Palestinian families grew up thinking that we were all going back to our houses within days, when the danger was gone—but here we are, still waiting to go home. This reality has affected all of our lives.

In 1967, Israel occupied the rest of Palestine. Its occupation army deliberately targets civilians. The military checkpoints and apartheid wall destroy the land, prevent the unity of families, and keep children from making it to school and patients from reaching health centers and hospitals.

Israel now holds over 6,500 Palestinians as political prisoners. Forty of these are women, including some who are pregnant, and 200 are children as young as 11 years old. Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations both report that torture and sexual violence is still used against these prisoners, as well as collective punishment like the demolition of the homes of the arrested.

In spite of this reality, I worked hard to be positive and help my people, especially women, fight for our rights. When I immigrated to the U.S., I found psychological tranquility and stability amongst my family, friends, and community, far away from any kind of fear or threats. I determined that this would be my second home, where I would build a life amongst a Palestinian and Arab diaspora community that I love and respect so dearly.

I have been working as a community organizer for the past 10 years with the Arab Women's Committee, a project of the

Madison InfoShop  
1019 Williamson St. #B  
Madison, WI 53703  
608-262-9036  
www.madisoninfohop.org

# april

00101/1803

Certain Days  
% QPIRG Concordia  
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. O.  
Montréal, QC H3G 1M8  
CANADA

Arab American Action Network in Chicago. This community helps me live a generous and simple life, and forget a lot of my personal pain.

I was shocked when the Department of Homeland Security arrested me in October of 2013. It happened without warning, and it was followed last year by incarceration for a month, three weeks of it in a freezing isolation cell. This incarceration forced me to relive the brutal torture and sexual assault I experienced for 10 years, as a political prisoner in Israeli jails.

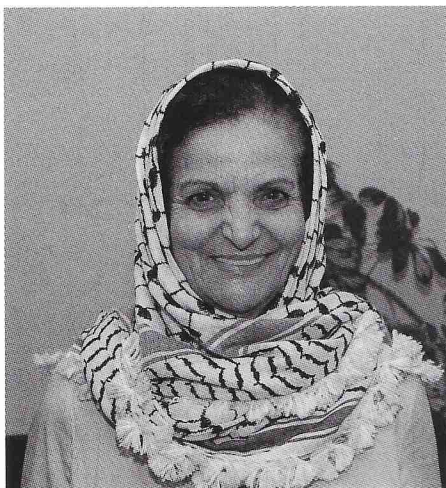
Isolation not only cuts you off from other people, it also cuts you off from yourself. It destroys you emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually, and makes you feel as if you are no longer whole. This is the deadliest thing.

They tried to control every aspect of my life—my physical body, my mind, my soul—and it reached a point where I would not sleep, because I did not want to put myself in a position where I was weak and could be controlled. The whole system of incarceration is designed to destroy people's humanity and make them despair.

That was a tough challenge. But challenges shouldn't scare us! If we believe in our rights and the principles that we stand for, have confidence in ourselves, and rise up together, we become stronger and more effective. Then we can achieve justice and a better future for our people in this country and across the world.

author

**Rasmea Odeh** was born in Lifta, near Jerusalem, Palestine, in 1947, and was tortured and sexually assaulted into a false confession that led to an unlawful conviction by an Israeli military court in 1970. She was released in a prisoner swap in 1979, and came to the U.S. in 1995, becoming a citizen in 2004.



Rasmea was arrested in 2013 and again unlawfully convicted for allegedly giving false answers on her immigration applications. This case is clearly a political attack on Rasmea, an icon in the Palestinian community, and everyone who organizes for the Palestinian rights of return, independence, self-determination, and equality.

Rasmea is still organizing with the Arab American Action Network as she appeals her conviction. Read more at [justice4rasmea.org](http://justice4rasmea.org).

**Marc Rudin**

artist

This poster (*Viva La Solidaridad*) was created by Marc Rudin in 1989. Rudin's political graphic art was mostly published by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). His work tells of many bitter stages of the Palestinian struggle for liberation and for the return of innumerable refugees to their country. Rudin is a classically trained designer whose posters are appreciated by Palestinians living in the occupied territories and in the Diaspora as well as the broader international community.

Poster courtesy of the Palestine Poster Project Archives ([palestineposterproject.org](http://palestineposterproject.org))





**Makibaka! Huwag Matakot!**  
**¡Si Se Puede!**





december

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february

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# january

Su M T W Th F S

In 1985, I was arrested with five other white activists for conspiracy to bomb several government buildings that were symbols of domestic racism, such as the office of the New York City Police Benevolent Association (known for supporting cops who had killed innocent civilians) following the murder of Black grandmother Eleanor Bumpurs. We were also charged with bombing buildings emblematic of U.S. foreign policy—most famously the Capitol Building, after the U.S. invasion of Grenada and shelling of Lebanon in 1983. We stuck to specific targets and planned with care: No one was hurt in any of the bombings. "...As white radicals, we refused to leave these liberation struggles to fight alone. We didn't want to say, 'Go, defeat the enemy! We'll be sitting here on the sidelines, clapping for you!' Supporting the struggles of people for freedom means that you take some risks yourself. It means stepping beyond your political comfort zone." — Laura Whitehorn, introduction to *The War Before*

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2



last quarter

1959 - Cuban revolution victorious

1994 - Mexico: NAFTA signed; Zapatista uprising

1804 - Haitian independence is won

New Year's Day  
Last day of Kwanzaa

1973 - San Quentin prisoners strike

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new moon

1912 - South Africa: ANC founded

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16



first quarter

1970 - CA: W.L. Nolen, C. Edwards & G. Miller murdered by Soledad prison guards

2012 - G20 protestor Mandy Hiscocks sentenced to 16 months

2014 - CeCe McDonald released

2011 - Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali flees to Saudi Arabia

1983 - BPP member Lorenzo Kom'Boa Ervin released from prison

17

18

19

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22

23



full moon

1969 - L.A.: Panthers Bunchy Carter & John Huggins murdered

1991 - U.S., Canadian & other imperialist U.N. forces attack Iraq

2006 - OR: Jonathan Paul arrested for horse slaughterhouse arson. Later sentenced to 51 months

Martin Luther King Day

2001 - U.S. anti-imperialists Linda Evans & Susan Rosenberg released

2001 - Teddy "Jah" Heath, former Panther, one of the NY 21, dies of cancer in prison

2007 - San Francisco 8 arrested

24/31

25

26

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29

30

1974 - Minnesota Prisoners Union formed at Stillwater

1972 - Derry, Ireland: Bloody Sunday

1968 - Tet Offensive begins in Vietnam



last quarter

1787 - MA: Shays' Rebellion. Farmers revolt against imprisonment for debt

1944 - Angela B. Davis born





14-5-78  
GISELLE - 873462

Tom Mann  
H/07



| january |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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# february

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Su M T W Th F S

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1960 - Greensboro, NC:  
Sit-in against segregation

1913 - Rosa Parks born

1976 - Canada: AIM  
member Leonard Peltier  
captured by police

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

new moon

1968 - SC: Orangeburg  
Massacre. Police fire into  
crowd of anti-segregation  
protestors, killing 3.

1997 - CA: Norma  
Jean Croy released  
from prison

**Civic Holiday (BC)**  
**Chinese New Year**

2011 - Egyptian President  
Hosni Mubarak resigns,  
following 18 days of  
widespread protest

1971 - Raiford Prison, FL:  
63 peaceful hunger  
strikers shot

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

first quarter

2003 - Oakland: After 35  
years, Lil' Bobby Hutton's  
gravesite receives tombstone

2008 - ON: Algonquin  
spokesperson Bob Lovelace  
sentenced to 6 months

**Louis Riel Day**

**Civic Holiday**  
**(ATLA, SASK, MAN & ON)**  
**President's Day (U.S.)**

**Valentine's Day**

1942 - 120,000 Japanese-  
Americans sent to  
internment camps

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

full moon

1965 - NYC: Malcom X  
assassinated

2006 - Olympia, WA:  
Joyanna Zacher &  
Nathan Block arrested

1976 - SD: AIM activist  
Anna Mae Aquash found  
dead

**Día de la Bandera**  
**(Mexico)**

1973 - SD: Oglala Sioux  
& AIM seize town of  
Wounded Knee

1989 - Caracas,  
Venezuela: Popular revolt  
against neo-liberal policies

28 29

2004 - U.S. troops remove  
democratically elected  
Haitian President Jean-  
Bertrand Aristide

Romanipe is a recently founded Montreal-based not-for-profit organization. Its main mission is to create a space to share and mobilize around the prejudices and systemic barriers the Roma face worldwide and increasingly in Canada. Fighting racism and securing rights for Roma refugees to Canada is an important objective for us. Creating an environment where Roma identity, culture, language and history are embraced and understood. Romanipe est une organisation à but non lucratif qui a comme objectif premier de combattre la discrimination et la violence subies par la population Rom au Canada et en Europe. Notre mission est de créer un espace tant pour les Roms que pour les non-Roms afin qu'ils deviennent des citoyens actifs par la responsabilisation, la mobilisation et la participation. L'objectif spécifique est de soutenir la création d'un environnement où l'histoire, la culture, la langue et l'identité Rom seront réclamées et comprises. [romanipe.wordpress.com](http://romanipe.wordpress.com)



# SOLIDARIDAD CON EL PUEBLO MAPUCHE

DESDE LOS BOSQUES NOS  
LEVANTAMOS COMO ARBOLES  
SOMOS RIO Y VIENTO



*Melanie Compton '13*



february

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april

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march

Su M T W Th F S

1  2  
last quarter

3 4 5

1954 - Washington, D.C.:  
Puerto Rican Nationalists  
attack U.S. congress2006 - SHAC 7 convicted  
& sentenced to 3-6 yearsInternational Sex  
Workers' Rights Day6 7 8  9 10 11 12

new moon

1971 - PA: "Citizens  
Commission to Investigate  
the FBI" raid FBI office  
exposing COINTELPRO  
documentsInternational  
Women's Day1976 - WA: George  
Jackson Bridge member  
John Sherman liberated1976 - WA: George  
Jackson Bridge member  
Mark Cook captured13 14 15  16 17 18 19

first quarter

1988 - 500 Palestinian  
police resign in protest of  
Israeli policiesDaylight Savings  
Time begins1973 - North Carolina  
Prisoners' Union formedInternational Day  
Against Police Brutality1792 - Denmark becomes  
first Western country to  
outlaw the slave trade2003 - Palestine: ISM  
volunteer Rachel Corrie  
killed by Israeli forces1992 - Escaped Puerto  
Rican political prisoner  
Luis Colon Osorio is  
recaptured2008 - The K16, aboriginal  
leaders opposed to mining  
on First Nations land,  
sentenced to 6 months20 21 22 23  24 25 26

full moon

Spring Equinox

Human Rights Day  
(South Africa)1977 - NJ: Assata Shakur  
convicted of murder &  
sentenced to life + 33  
years in prison

Good Friday

27 28 29 30 31 

last quarter

Cesar Chavez Day  
(CA & TX)

Ali Mustafa was a Toronto-based freelance photojournalist, activist and writer. Ali was killed along with seven others on March 9, 2014, in Aleppo, Syria in an aerial bombing carried out by the Assad government. His work exposed the depths of a human tragedy that he believed the rest of the world could no longer afford to ignore. [rememberingalimustafa.org](http://rememberingalimustafa.org)

Easter Sunday

Easter Monday



عاشر التضامن  
الكوبي الفلسطيني

Viva La Solidaridad  
Cubano-Palestina





march

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# april

may

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Su M T W Th F S

For decades, Israel has denied Palestinians their fundamental rights of freedom, equality, and self-determination through ethnic cleansing, colonization, racial discrimination, and military occupation. Despite abundant condemnation of Israeli policies by the UN, other international bodies, and preeminent human rights organizations, the world community has failed to hold Israel accountable and enforce compliance with basic principles of law.

In 2005, Palestinian civil society issued a call for a campaign of boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights. A truly global movement against Israeli Apartheid is rapidly emerging in response to this call. Boycotts target products and companies (Israeli and international) that profit from the violation of Palestinian rights, as well as Israeli sporting, cultural and academic institutions. Anyone can boycott Israeli goods, simply by making sure that they don't buy produce made in Israel or by Israeli companies. [bdsmovement.net](http://bdsmovement.net)

1

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7


  
new moon

8

9

1968 - Memphis, TN:  
Martin Luther King Jr.  
assassinated

1980 - Chicago, IL:  
11 Puerto Rican FALN  
Nationalists captured

1968 - Oakland, CA: BPP  
member Bobby Hutton  
murdered by police

1999 - 3,000 unarmed  
Zapatistas retake San  
Andrés from Mexican  
Army

10

11

12

13

14


  
first quarter

15

16

1988 - NY: Japanese  
American anti-imperialist  
Yū Kikumura captured

2006 - ON: Millhaven  
Prison hunger strike &  
uprising

1971: ON: Kingston  
Penitentiary riot lasts 4  
days; 2 prisoners killed

17

18

19

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21

22


  
full moon

23

1965 - SDS leads 1st  
national march on DC  
against Vietnam War

**Palestinian Prisoners  
Day**

1977 - Leonard Peltier  
convicted of killing 2 FBI  
agents

1981 - Sekou Odinga gets  
life sentence for Brinks  
robbery

2008 - ON: Week-long  
standoff at Tyendinaga  
Mohawk territory; Shawn  
Brant & 11 others face  
charges

**Earth Day**

**Passover begins**

24

25

26

27

28

29


  
last quarter

30

2000 - Coxsackie, NY:  
Black Panther Albert Nuh  
Washington dies of cancer  
in prison

1899 - Warner, ID: 1,000  
miners dynamite their  
mine protesting working  
conditions

1975: Saigon surrenders;  
Vietnam united  
**Last day of Passover**





# A GARLAND FOR MAY DAY

DEDICATED TO THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD  
AND  
TO THE DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH



april

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june

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# may

Su M T W Th F S

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

new moon

2013 - FBI puts \$2M  
Bounty on Assata Shakur,  
calls her 'most wanted'  
terrorist

1970 - OH: National  
Guard open fire on  
student protestors at Kent  
State, killing 4

1973 - NJ Turnpike:  
Sundiata Acoli captured

Cinco de Mayo  
Holocaust  
Remembrance Day

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

first quarter

Mother's Day

1800 - Abolitionist John  
Brown born

1857 - Beginning of Great  
Mutiny against British  
Imperial rule in India

1985 - Philadelphia: Police  
drop bomb on MOVE  
home, killing 11 people

1970 - MS: Police open  
fire on student protestors  
at Jackson State, killing 2

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

full moon

2004 - Poet & activist  
Gloria Anzaldúa dies

Nakba Day

1954 - U.S. Supreme  
Court declares school  
segregation illegal

1890 - Ho Chi Minh born  
1925 - Malcolm X born

1996 - Abdul Haqq  
released from prison

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Journée nationale des  
Patriotes (QC)

Victoria Day (Canada)

2001 - NC: Eddie Hatcher  
sentenced to life without  
parole

1974: Reyes Martinez,  
Neva Romero, and Una  
Jaakola (first 3 members  
of Los Seis de Boulder)  
killed in car bombing

29 30 31

last quarter

1974: Florencio Granado,  
Heriberto Teran, Francisco  
Dougherty (second 3 members of  
Los Seis de Boulder) killed in car  
bombing

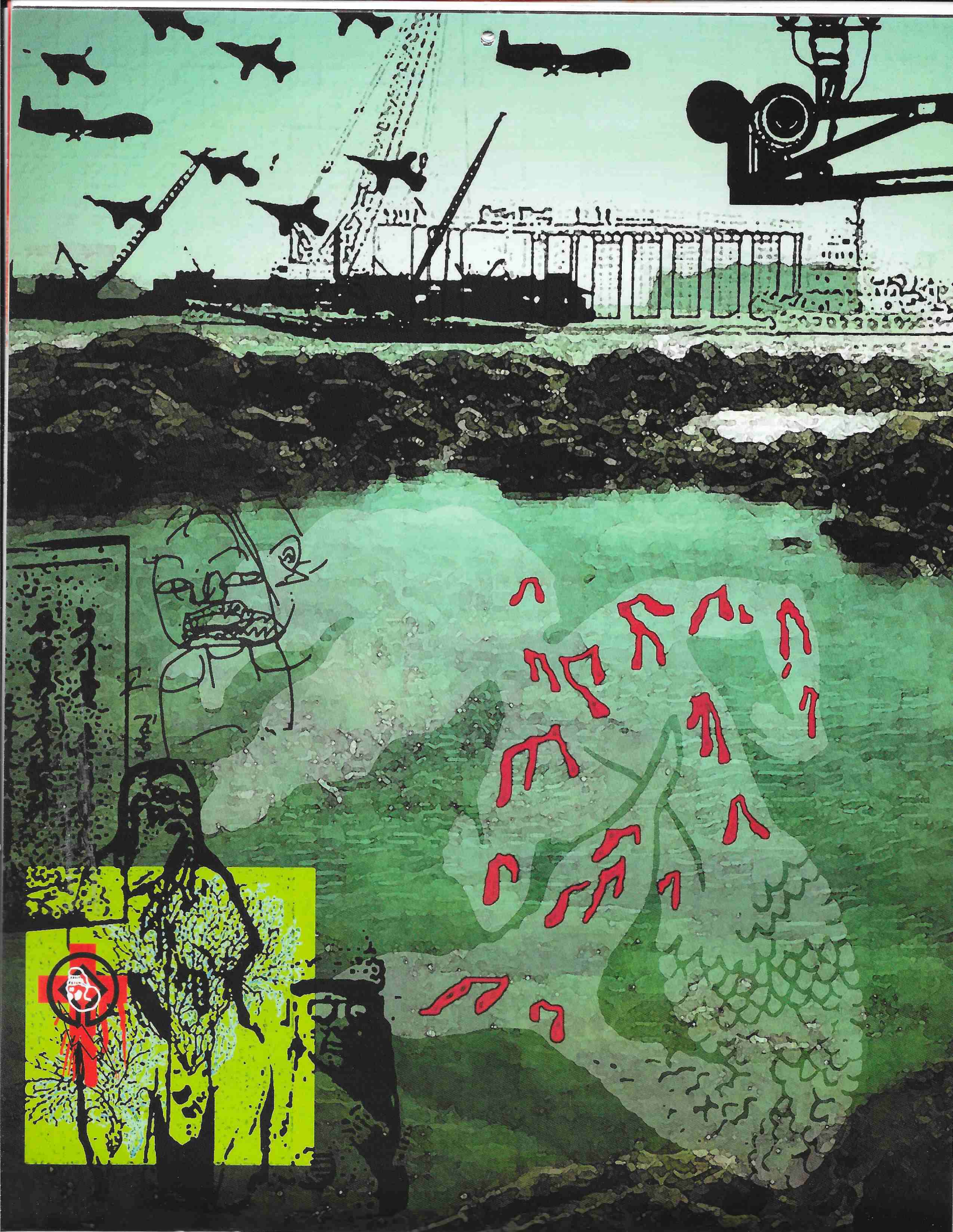
2008 - 7 aboriginal leaders (K16  
& Bob Lovelace) freed from jail  
after blocking mining on their land

Memorial Day  
(U.S.)

"Against starvation wages, against deportations, against the cops, celebrate May Day - international worker and immigrant rights day! Remember Haymarket!" - #JeremyIn140

Jeremy Hammond is a member of the hacktivist network Anonymous and a gifted computer programmer whose case has attracted the attention of activists, civil libertarians, and those concerned about the rights of whistleblowers. He is currently spending a decade in prison for allegedly disclosing information about the private intelligence firm Strategic Forecasting, Inc. (Stratfor), revealing that they had been spying on human rights defenders at the behest of corporations and governments. WikiLeaks published these files in partnership with 29 media organizations worldwide as the Global Intelligence Files. [freejeremy.net](http://freejeremy.net)







may

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# june

july

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Su M T W Th F S

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This month's art: Jeju refers to the expanding U.S. militarized base on Jeju Island (South Korea) and its destruction to sacred sites and the environment. To learn more, read "Jeju: 'Island of Peace' in the Crosshairs of War" at [counterpunch.org](http://counterpunch.org).

2007 - Joyanna Zacher & Nathan Block sentenced to 7 years, 8 months

1975 - WA: George Jackson Brigade bombs DOC headquarters in support of Walla Walla prisoners

2011 - geronimo ji-jaga dies of a heart attack in Tanzania

1972 - Angela Davis acquitted of murder & kidnapping charges

1989 - China: Tiananmen Square massacre

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2000 - Kingston, ON: Prison for Women formally closes

Ramadan begins

1997 - L.A.: geronimo ji-jaga released after 27 years in prison

International Day of Solidarity with Marius Mason and Eric McDavid

12



13

first quarter

14

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1971 - Classified documents on Vietnam (Pentagon papers) released

1983 - Toronto: Bulldozer prison abolition journal raided by police

1976 - Soweto, South Africa: 700 students killed in uprising against apartheid

19

20



21

full moon

22

23

24

25

1953 - Ethel & Julius Rosenberg executed by the state

Juneteenth  
Father's Day

Summer Solstice

National Aboriginal Day  
(Canada)

St. Jean Baptiste  
Holiday (Quebec)

26

27



28

last quarter

29

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1859 - San Quentin prison: Francisco Lallo leads mass breakout of Chicano & Indian prisoners, 40 escaped & 10 killed

2012 - G20 protestor Alex Hundert sentenced to 13.5 months

1969 - NYC: Stonewall resistance

1905 - IWW founded



HOME IF YOU PROTEST

POVERTY'S TIPPING POINT

CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH CARE UNIT

WOMEN'S PROTEST

CANADA'S BLACK HOUSING PROJECT

HOME FOR THE HOMELESS

CONSERVATIVE

REFUGEE

RECEPTION

CENTER

CANADA'S  
ABORIGINAL  
STRATEGY

CANADIAN  
BATTERED  
WOMEN'S  
SHELTER

PRISON

COOKINS 2012



june

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august

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july

Su M T W Th F S

It is the job of the managerial class of lawyers, preachers, and politicians to reduce tensions, to de-radicalize movements, to make them manageable. And once they become manageable, they lose their mass base and with it, its social power. For the masses know the essential nature of the police, for they see them and gauge them daily. They know them as violent, vicious, and venal government officials and they are hungry, anxious to oppose them. Movements are a lot like volcanoes which appear dormant or sleeping. Unseen are underground forces churning, boiling, crashing like waves against a hidden shore until one day, usually a day none had foreseen, it erupts, flashing its red molten rage over miles, changing everything. That's what movements do and what they are. "If hot enough, they can change everything. Everything. But political, media, and state forces don't want change, they want continuity. For therein lies both their profits and their power and who wants to lose either of those things." — Mumia Abu-Jamal on Ferguson. fsrn.org

1

2

1977 - SD: Leonard Peltier receives 2 life sentences for deaths of 2 FBI agents

2011 - Indefinite hunger strike begins at Pelican Bay & other prisons throughout California

1963 - CA: Soledad prison food strike

Canada Day

Lailat al Qadr

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new moon

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1977 - WA: George Jackson Brigade plants bomb at state capitol in support of striking segregated prisoners

Independence Day (U.S.)

Eid-al-Fitr

1971 - Terre Haute, IN: Prisoners stage 3-day strike

Nunavut Day

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first quarter

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1978 - NY: Women at Bedford Prison strike to protest beatings & harassment

1990 - Quebec: 500 police attack Mohawks in Kanehsatake

2006 - Israeli Defense Forces begin 33-day bombing of Beirut & South Lebanon

2010 - Marilyn Buck is paroled

17

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19

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full moon

21

22

23

1981 - New Afrikan Freedom Fighter Day

1848 - Seneca, NY: Women's rights convention

2013 - CA: Guards at Corcoran State Prison ignore distress calls & hunger striker Billy 'Guero' Sell dies in his cell

24/31

25

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27

last quarter

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1898 - U.S. colonization of Puerto Rico begins





# FREE ALL Political Prisoners!

<https://www.facebook.com/GUOAmnesty>

#FreeAllPoliticalPrisonersPH



july

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september

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# august

Su M T W Th F S

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new moon

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2009 - Sydey, NS: Donald Marshall Jr. dies

1945 - Hiroshima: U.S. drops atomic bomb, killing approx. 150,000

1990 - UN economic sanctions against Iraq begin

1999 - Laura Whitehorn released

Civic Holiday (Canada, except QC, NFLD)

2010 - NY: Marilyn Buck dies of cancer

7

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first quarter

12

13

1970 - Marin County, CA: Jonathan Jackson, William Christmas &amp; James McClain killed during liberation attempt

1977 - NY: Napanoch Prison Rebellion against klan guards

1945 - U.S. bombs Nagasaki, Japan, killing approx. 80,000

International Day of the World's Indigenous People

1970 - Tombs Prison, NY: Prisoners stage rebellion

Prisoners' Justice Day

1999 - U.S.: 11 Puerto Rican political prisoners granted clemency

1968 - Ohio Penitentiary: Prisoners take over for 3 days

2015: CA - Hugo Pinell killed in prison

2015: ON - Peter Collins dies in prison

14

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full moon

20

1985 - OH: Prisoners take over supermax unit to air grievances over radio

2003 - Anti-imperialist Kathy Boudin granted parole

Discovery Day (Yukon)

1955 - NY: Strike at Comstock prison

21

22

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25

last quarter

26

27

1971 - Soledad Prison, CA: George Jackson assassinated by prison guards

1831 - Nat Turner slave rebellion begins

1989 - BPP founder Huey Newton killed

1927 - MA: Anarchists Sacco &amp; Vanzetti executed

2003 - NY: Black liberation fighter &amp; political prisoner supporter, Safiya Bukhari dies at 53

28

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31

1970 - Chicano Moratorium Against the War. 3 killed by LAPD in anti-war protest

Five years since Benigno Aquino III assumed presidency, the human rights situation in the Philippines remains worrisome. In an attempt to silence activists and political dissenters, the government is continuously intensifying its U.S.-backed counter-insurgency program called Oplan Bayanihan. Out of the 527 political prisoners in the Philippines, 252 of them slapped with trumped-up charges were arrested during the U.S.-Aquino regime. These political prisoners have been languishing in jails all over the country under subhuman conditions. karapatan.org





Migration with dignity:  
end immigration detention.

[www.thepublicstudio.ca](http://www.thepublicstudio.ca)



august

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october

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# September

Su M T W Th F S

"The most potent weapon of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed." – Steve Biko

On September 12, 1977, Stephen Bantu Biko died in a prison cell in Pretoria. The announcement of Biko's death by the South African government the next day sparked international and national protest. Steve Biko was not the only person to die in detention at the hands of the South African security police; yet, because of Biko's prominence as a charismatic leader of the Black Consciousness Movement, his case captured the attention of many South Africans and people throughout the world. [overcomingapartheid.msu.edu](http://overcomingapartheid.msu.edu)

1 ● 2 3  
new moon

1971 - Jackson, MI:  
Prisoners form  
labour union

1973 - New Orleans:  
Herman Bell captured

4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
first quarter

Labour Day  
(U.S. & Canada)

1971 - NY: Attica Prison  
Rebellion begins

11 12 13 14 15 16 17  
full moon

2001 - NYC: Planes  
destroy World Trade  
Center, Bush's "war on  
terror" begins

1971 - Massacre at Attica  
Prison: NY state troopers  
fire; prisoners & guards  
killed

1982 - Lebanon:  
Massacre at Sabra &  
Shatila refugee camps,  
hundreds of Palestinians  
murdered

1973 - Chile: U.S. helps  
overthrow Allende

1977 - South Africa: Steve  
Biko killed in prison

Eid-al-Adha

Mexican  
Independence Day

18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
last quarter

1968 - Mexico City: Army  
invades UNAM university  
in response to protests

1971 - KS: State prison  
food strike

Autumn Equinox

1898 - Birth of the Puerto  
Rican Nation, El Grito de  
Lares

2005 - Puerto Rico: FBI  
assassinates Filiberto  
Ojeda Rios

Native Americans' Day  
(CA)

2000 - PA: Political  
prisoner Jihad Abdulmumit  
released from prison

25 26 27 28 29 30  
new moon

2000 - Palestine:  
2nd Palestinian  
Intifada begins





¿Dónde están?



september

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november

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# october

# Su M T W Th F S

The genocide of the Mayans of Guatemala began with the overthrow of the democratically elected president, Jacobo Arbenz, in 1954. The coup d'état was orchestrated by the U.S. government and the CIA. Over the course of the next 40 years, over 200,000 Guatemalans were killed or disappeared, 83 percent of which were Mayan Indigenous. A UN Peace Accord was brokered in 1996 but it has not brought peace or justice to the Guatemalan people and attempts to bring the perpetrators to justice have proven almost impossible. Presently, Guatemalans are struggling against mining operations, largely Canadian. Canadian mining companies have are involved in human rights violations, not only in Guatemala but also in Africa, Asia, and other Latin American countries. "The eyes of the buried will close together on the day of justice, or they will never close." – Miguel Angel Asturias, Guatemalan Nobel Laureate

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1968 - Mexico City: Tlatelolco Massacre, thousands killed during protest

**Al-Hijra (Muharram New Year)**  
**Rosh Hashana**

2001 - U.S. begins bombing Afghanistan

**Day of the Heroic Guerrilla**

9

  
first quarter

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2008 - NYC: Jericho 10th Anniversary National March to UN

**Native Americans' Day (SD)**

1967 - Che Guevara killed in Bolivia

**Columbus Day (U.S.)  
Thanksgiving (Canada)**

**Ashura  
Yom Kippur**

1970 - Angela Davis captured

1979 - DC: 100,000 people at 1st march for lesbian & gay rights

1966: Oakland, CA: BPP founded

1968 - Presidio Mutiny, military prisoners strike against Vietnam War

1968 - U.S. federal court prohibits use of whips on prisoners

16

  
full moon

17

18

19

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21

22

  
last quarter

1859 - WV: Abolitionist John Brown leads attack on Federal Armory

**Día de la Raza (Mexico)**

1969 - LA: BPP member Walter Toure Pope murdered by cops

1981 - Nyack, NY: Brinks robbery by BLA & allied anti-imperialists  
**Cuban Independence Day**

1963 - Folsom, CA: Strike protesting 4 cents/hour wage

**National Day Against Police Brutality (U.S.)**

23/30   
new moon

24/31

25

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29

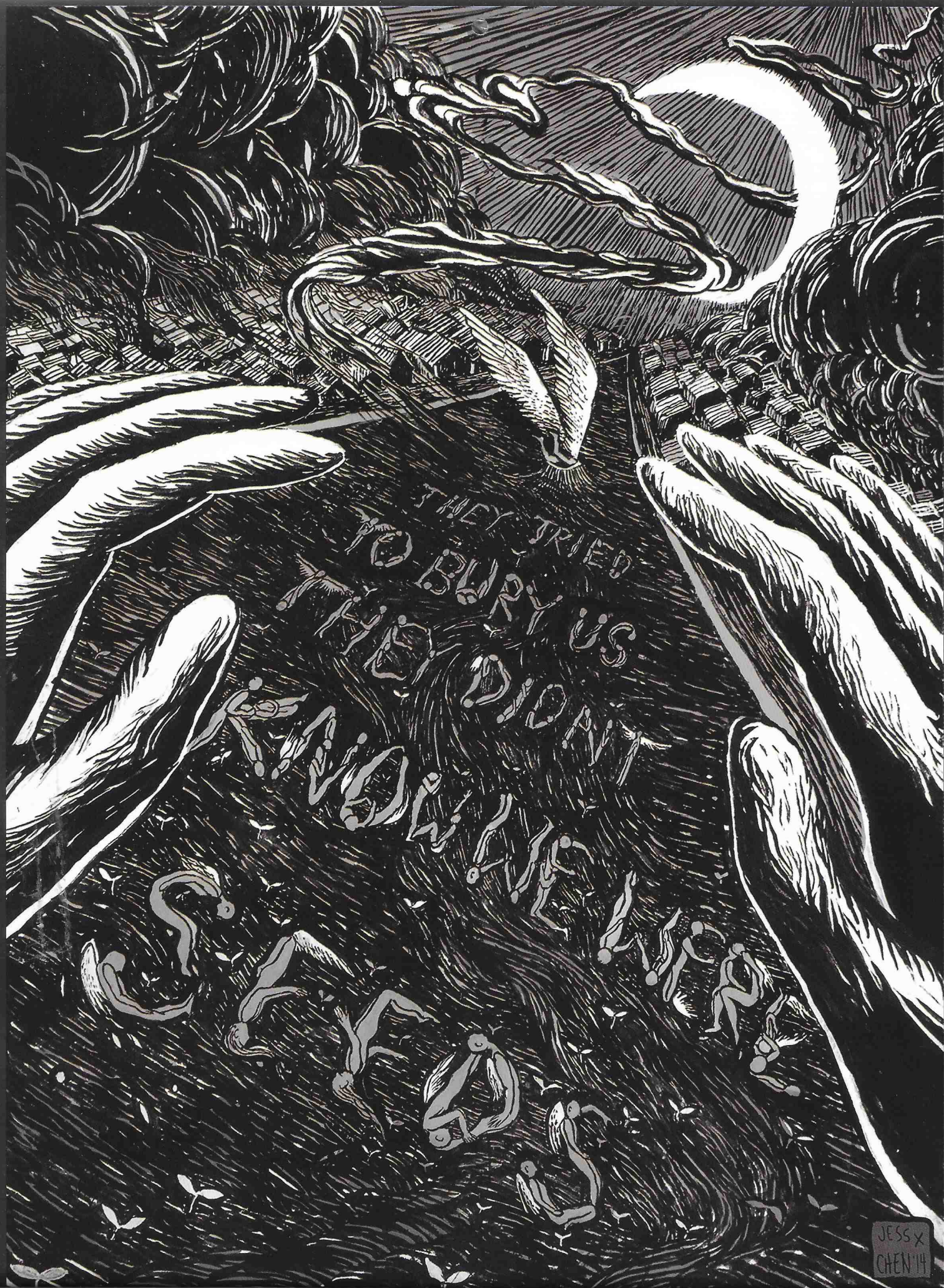
1984 - Millhaven, ON: Doug Stewart, of the Vancouver 5, ends 27-Day Hunger Strike

Diwali

Halloween

1967 - Oakland, CA: Huey Newton arrested





JESS X  
CHEN '14



october

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december

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# november

Su M T W Th F S

1 2 3 4 5

1855 - Osceola leads fight against forced Seminole removal

1950 - Puerto Rican activists attempt to assassinate U.S. President Truman

Day of the Dead (Mexico)

1979 - NJ: Assata Shakur liberated from Clinton Women's Prison

1970 - NY: Rebellion at Auburn prison

6 7 8 9 10 11 12

first quarter

Daylight Savings Time ends

1972 - NJ: Work strike at Clinton Women's Prison

1831 - VA: Slave rebel Nat Turner hanged

1887 - IL: Haymarket martyrs hanged

Veteran's Day (U.S.)  
Remembrance Day (Canada)

13 14 15 16 17 18 19

full moon

1969 - Chicago: BPP member Spurgeon "Jake" Winters murdered by police

1983 - Mexico: The Zapatista National Liberation Army is born

1803 - Victory of Haitian revolutionaries in anti-slavery & independence struggle at Vertières

20 21 22 23 24 25 26

last quarter

1969 - Alcatraz Island: Indian occupation demands return of island to original inhabitants

1922 - Leavenworth Prison: Ricardo Flores Magon assassinated

2011 - Alleged G20 co-conspirators strike plea bargain together that frees 11 while 6 serve jail terms

1999 - Seattle, WA: Demonstrations against the WTO  
Thanksgiving Day (U.S.)

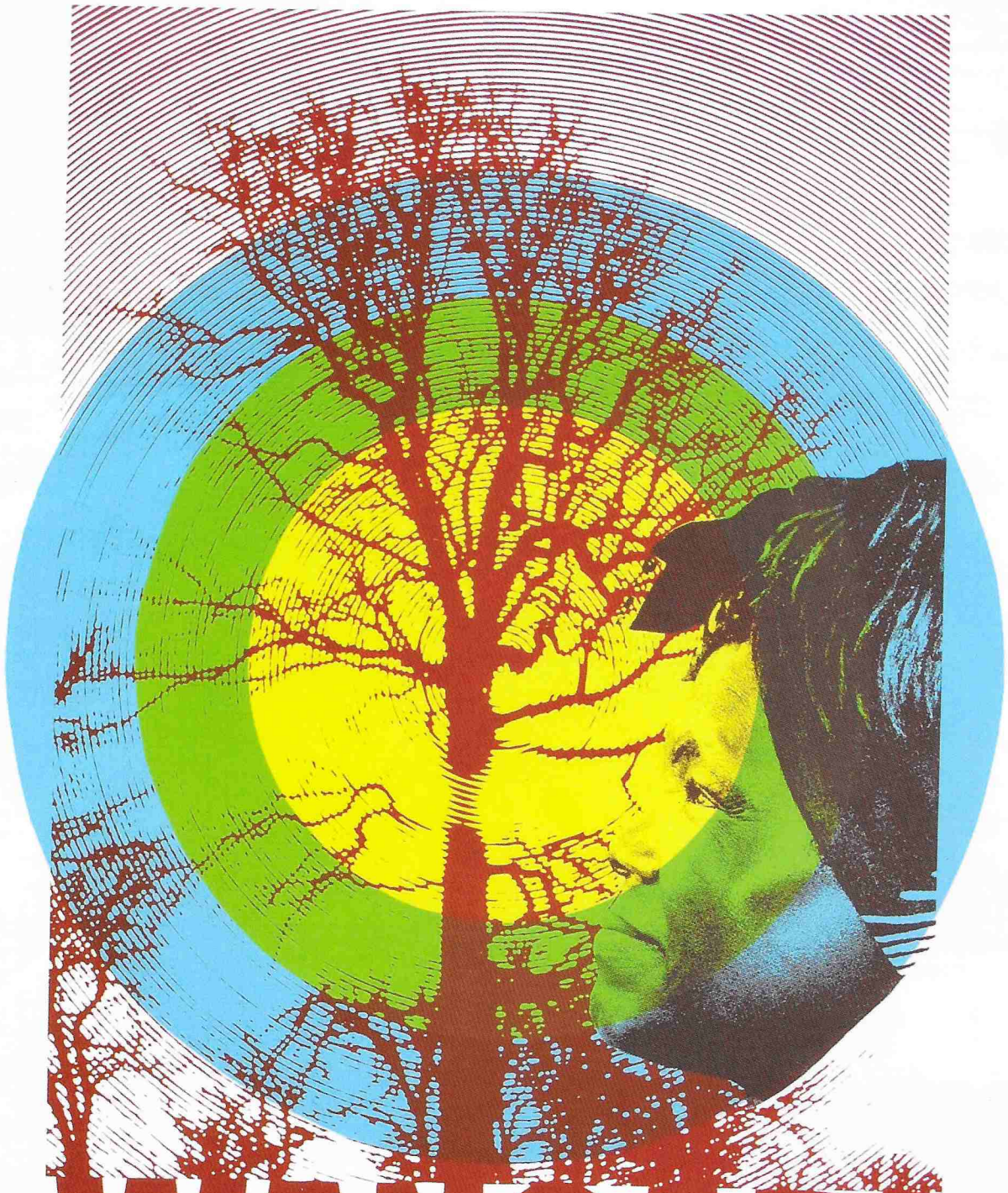
International Day Against Violence Against Women

27 28 29 30

new moon

This month's art: "Extending my love and thoughts to Ayotzinapa and the 43 missing students of the Iguala mass kidnapping. They winged bodies spell out the Mexican poem used in the student protests: "They tried to bury us. They didn't know we were seeds" / "Quisieron enterrarnos, pero se les olvido que somos semillas." Over 200,000 people protested in Mexico city demanding the government to return what they took." – artist Jess X. Chen





# WANGARI MAATHAI



november

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january

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# december

Su M T W Th F S

And this year it is even more urgent that we come together to protect our sovereignty. There are so many issues to face and fight. We continue to fight for our Black Hills and to stop the XL pipeline from poisoning our water and our land, and I stand with the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota Nations, and all people of like mind in this fight. "The destruction of our Mother Earth by the heavy and toxic tar sands oil, fracking, gas and oil drilling and uranium mining is unacceptable to me and to us. We are supposed to be protecting these things even as others try to push us aside. I honour all of our relatives who are on the front lines of this fight." – Leonard Peltier, [whoisleonardpeltier.info](http://whoisleonardpeltier.info)

1 2 3

1955 - AL: Activist Rosa Parks refuses to give up bus seat, leading to bus boycott

World AIDS Day

1859 - Abolitionist John Brown hanged

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

first quarter

1969 - Chicago: Panthers Fred Hampton & Mark Clark killed by Chicago police

1989 - 14 women killed by anti-feminist in the Montreal Massacre at École Polytechnique

1987 - 1st Palestinian Intifada begins

2005 - Daniel McGowan & Bill Rodgers arrested

1981 - Philadelphia: Mumia Abu Jamal shot & accused of killing a cop

Human Rights Day

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

full moon

1979 - FL: Puerto Rican POW Angel Rodriguez Cristobal assassinated

2012 - Daniel McGowan released

Mawlid al-Nabi (Sunni)

1903 - Ella Baker born

1972 - Framingham, MA: Women prisoners strike

1890 - ND/SD border: Sitting Bull (Tatanka Iyotaka), chief of Lakota Sioux, killed by soldiers

1972 - Walpole, MA: State Prison run by prisoners for 4 months

2010 - Mohammed Bouazizi sets himself on fire in protest of harassment by repressive state police, sparking massive protests across Tunisia

Mawlid al-Nabi (Shi'a)

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

last quarter

2011 - G20 protestor Leah Henderson sentenced to 10 months

Winter Solstice

2005 - Bill Rodgers dies in jail of an apparent suicide

2006 - SF, LA: Former Panther & grand jury resister John Bowman dies

25 26 27 28 29 30 31

new moon

Chanukah begins  
Christmas Day

Kwanzaa begins  
Boxing Day  
(Canada/UK)



Michael Davis *Artista May 97*  
Box 244  
Graterford, PA 19426-0244

INMATE MAIL  
PA-DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

may



AIR MAIL

## Catastrophic Climate Change is Rapidly Transforming Planet Earth

Catastrophic climate change is rapidly transforming the Earth: drought, deluges, disappearing icecaps, tempests, storms and rising seas. Human activity—capitalism in particular—is the cause, and, like exploitation and imperial wars, climate change is wildly unequal and discriminatory in impact and consequence. For hundreds of millions of people in the poorest and most vulnerable nations, prospects for survival are bleak, as multinational corporations plunder local resources, amassing wealth by exhausting the usable atmosphere. Mass migrations, armed conflict, and starvation follow. During Hurricane Katrina, for example, prison and jail guards abandoned imprisoned people who remained locked in their cells as waters and sewage rose around them.

Yet in numerous local communities across the planet, people are organizing for sustainable and earth-friendly development. They are rejecting finance capitalist notions of growth and trade in favour of seed banks, adaptable food crops, healthy waterways, food cooperatives, and meaningful work.

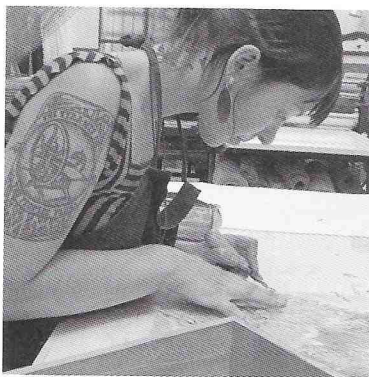
In the Coordinadora of the Lower Lempa in El Salvador, the Mangrove Association and other rural cooperative communities are recovering the land destroyed by a century of sugar plantations, chemical fertilizers, and spraying, showing that high-quality seeds for their food staples like corn and beans can be grown by local farmers for domestic use. Their practice supports the Farabundo

Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) government's official policy of buying these local seeds and distributing them free to poor farmers. This is nothing short of a visionary food security initiative and self-determination for rural development. The activists of the Mangrove Association have sparked the resistance to the compulsory use of Monsanto seeds in El Salvador. They have also recovered their mangrove forests—which absorb greenhouse gases—and protected the wildlife as well as the water in the rivers, bays, and estuaries.

Similarly, in the Rishi Valley of Southern India, millet is again being grown as a dietary staple, replacing the wheat of the U.S.-sponsored 1980s Green Revolution—a crop that required abundant water and fertilizer. Cooperative women's organizations are developing their land based on local climate and human need.

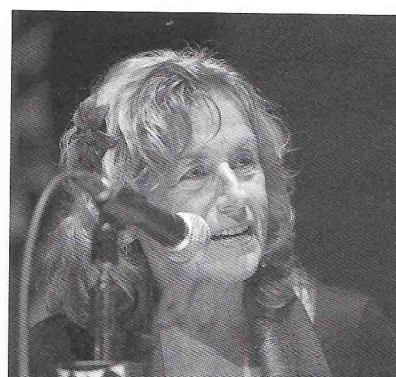
These local and national food sovereignty movements are the peoples' response to the privatization of the public sphere, deregulation of corporate and finance sectors, and imperial plunder. Popular and radical movements everywhere reject the U.S. denial of climate change and the U.S. opposition to the demands of the Global South for payment of the climate debt from the world's dominant polluters. Instead, we stand in solidarity with all those confronting climate crises, the international Third World, and people of colour at home.

artist



## Entangled Roots Press

is the artwork of Ali Cat. Leeds. She is a Portland-based printmaker who draws inspiration from people's movements and the "weeds" growing up through cracks in the concrete. Ali works towards supporting activist, grassroots organizations the sales of her work along with the spreading of the ideas portrayed. She is currently a member of Flight 64 Studio, a member-run, non profit print studio in Portland, Oregon.



author

## Bernardine Dohrn

activist, academic and children's and women's rights advocate, is a retired Associate Clinical Professor at Northwestern University School of Law, where she was the (founding) director of the Children and Family Justice

Center for twenty-three years. Dohrn was national leader of SDS and the Weather Underground, and was on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List.

Dohrn is an author and co-editor of three books: *Race Course: Against White Supremacy* (2009) with Bill Ayers; *A Century of Juvenile Justice* (2002); and *Resisting Zero Tolerance: A Handbook for Parents, Teachers and Students* (2001).

She is co-editor of *Sing A Battle Song: Documents of the Weather Underground*, and wrote the introduction to *Letters from Young Activists*. Dohrn taught women and children's human rights law at Northwestern, was a visiting professor over ten years at Leiden University faculty of law in the Netherlands and at Vrije University in Amsterdam, and a Lecturer at the University of Chicago.



# The Women Combatants of Rojava

# june

Interviews with Commander Abdullah of the YPJ (Women's Defence Units)

Giuliana Sgrena (GS): Women who in the past took part in struggles for the liberation of their countries placed the rights of women in second place, thinking they would be achieved afterwards thanks to their contribution, but it did not turn out so. For you it is not like this...

Nesrin Abdullah (NA): The world shifted from a matriarchal to a patriarchal system, and women lost their identity. Patriarchy has oppressed women; they have also suffered physical violence, and despite struggling they have not succeeded in achieving a space within society. Nevertheless, women have always striven for their liberty and their rights. Through our struggle, we are realizing this dream. It is the struggles of previous years that have led to the creation of the YPJ; it was the example of the movement of the women of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party), who for years fought in the mountains for their identity and freedom. Women have been protagonists of the Arab Spring, yet this has not opened a path for the realization of their rights; instead the revolution in Rojava has shown the strength of women. Ours is a struggle in which everyone participates: from seven-year-old girls to 70-year-old women, this has allowed for a feminine presence in all areas, even in the military.

GS: Do you think that women combatants who confront the fanatic terrorists have caused a shock inside Isis?

NA: I think the presence of women among combatants has caused a breakdown in the convictions and maybe in the faith of Isis. They have always fought against armies of men and they also won, but now confronting women must have been a shock because they declared women to be the main enemy. Moreover, they immediately decreed that if a fighter is killed by a woman, he cannot enter heaven, and his body is burned. When they killed a women fighter, they cut

off her head and displayed it by the hair like a trophy. This act is the symbol of an ideological defeat for Isis. For us, in contrast, fighting this enemy has become a symbol of identity and has mesmerized and won the attention of Arab, Assyrian, Turkish, and German women (among whom there has also been a martyr).

...

GS: Do you think a coalition led by the USA is interested in assisting your democratic project?

NA: So far the assistance has only been through bombing, which we well know has not been undertaken for us but to defeat Isis as a mutual enemy. But it must go further: Rojava needs international recognition. We will see if the coalition is willing to also give us diplomatic help. We demand an end to all massacres including to that of our identity.

...

GS: And what will happen in Syria?

NA: Syria has gone the way of a suicide bomber; there is now nothing on which to build. We are ready at the military level to construct a new democratic system but political engagement is necessary. The Syrian opposition does not have a project for the future of Syria, and proposals cannot come from abroad; it could follow our example. We are not waiting for the situation in Syria to resolve itself in order to achieve our project for democratic autonomy as part of a democratic Syria. The model proposed from Rojava is popular at the international level because it guarantees everyone can live freely with their culture, identity, and religion. We're fighting solely against Isis and are ready to defend the system we created; we are one pillar of our system.

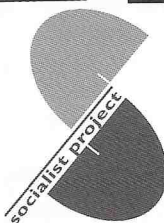
## Nesrin Abdullah interviewed by Giuliana Screen

## authOr



[In January 2015] Isis chose the beginning of Ramadan to launch an attack on Kobane in an attempt to retake the city liberated by the Kurdish resistance. No sooner was the attack repelled than Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan began brandishing his scimitar and deploying troops and armour to the border with Syrian Kurdistan, threatening to put an end to the project of democratic autonomy that Kurds are building in the three cantons of Rojava.

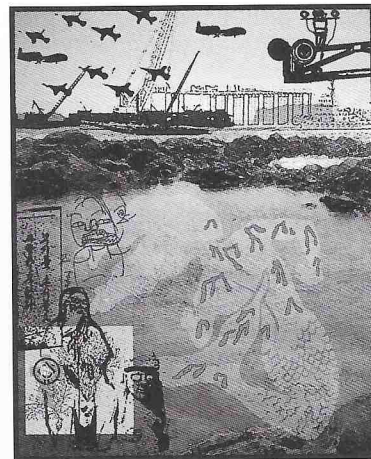
This interview excerpt was originally published by the Italian leftwing daily *Il Manifesto* (ilmanifesto.info). Nesrin Abdullah was interviewed while on a visit to Italy where she met parliamentarians, but also ordinary Italians during various events throughout the country. The piece was translated into English by Sam Putinja for Socialist Project (socialistproject.ca): "We oppose capitalism out of necessity and support the resistance of others out of solidarity."



**Cecelia Chapman** is a visual artist working in text and video. She lives in Northern California. [ceceliachapman.com](http://ceceliachapman.com).

**Jeff Crouch** is an internet artist with many blogs. Google him.

# artists





# Internationalism in the Context of Police Killings

The extra-judicial police violence targeting Black citizens (killing them) with little or no provocation coincides with the long-standing racist convention that mis-characterizes African-Americans as being more inclined to criminal behaviour than whites. Hence the standard assumption being that criminals are Black and Blacks are criminals. By over-representing minorities as crime suspects, opportunistic elected officials and the corporate media are complicit in this slander.

Looking at the upsurge of highly questionable police killings of young Black and Brown men today in conjunction with the militarized and discriminatory police violence that now prevails in u.s. society, one can only surmise that even more of these young men, Blacks in particular, are fated to fall victim to more of the same. The upsurge reminds one of "old battles" being fought again. History ignored is history repeated. But for those who remained vigilant and keenly cognizant of the tendencies and influences in contemporary u.s. society, especially at the height of the Civil Rights Movement during the late 60s and 70s, did in no way suggest that we should turn our political swords into plowshares.

Old battles being fought are not exclusive to the u.s. Ethiopian Jews in the zionist state of Israel now opine that the racist police violence and general discriminatory treatment they experience in Israel society is similar to how Blacks in the u.s. are treated. The thorny migration issues that now loom large particularly in Western Europe and North America, where racist and discriminatory treatment of migrants is part of the social landscape; and this would undoubtedly be less so if the lives of migrants (from Afrika, the Middle East, and Latin America) arriving there in unprecedented numbers, legally or otherwise, were not disrupted by western economic pursuit of profit, cheap labour, and natural resources in total disregard of the adverse affect and hardship this predatory practice would impose on the land and the inhabitants of the targeted country. Thus unleashing among other things: wars, famine, and dispossession on such a scale that those countries are rendered unsafe and dysfunctional.

# july

That's why people seek refuge in other countries. The irony is that too often the policies of these host countries to which they migrate are the very ones that are directly or indirectly culpable for their displacement and are now regarding them as burdens rather than as victims.

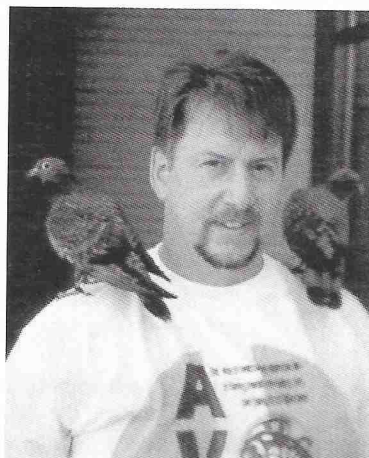
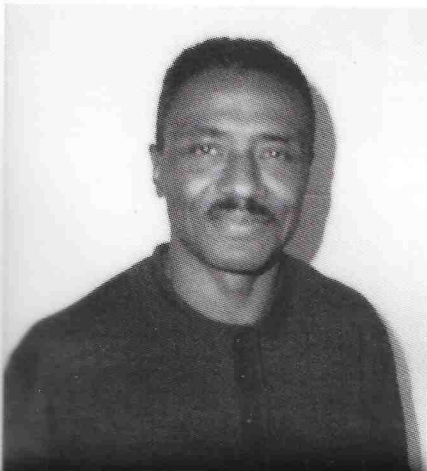
Another kind of displacement that has occurred in the u.s. for African-Americans is that the u.s. ruling elite has transferred control of Black citizens from chattel slavery and the peonage system to the courts and prisons, which lends itself to heavy policing and targeting in particular of young Black men; it becomes an issue of power and control and whether "Black lives matter." The institution of slavery and its legacy in the u.s. has largely determined how African-Americans are perceived and treated. It shows that Mike Brown, Freddie Gray, and countless other Black victims of police violence are not anomalies. It illuminates the escalating social and racial friction in u.s. society, explains mass incarceration and to a considerable degree the glaring unequal distribution of wealth in america that favours the rich and politically powerful to the disadvantage of the working poor. The upshot is that people the world over show signs of being tired and disenchanted and have begun to push back.

Hence much of the old ways of doing and thinking are of a bygone era and they ought to be regarded as such. The grounds have shifted, the old rules, values, structures that long sustained the ruling elite is faltering and the government they control displays a growing inability to respond to the needs of the people. A replacement, a new social order seems to be called for, one (or so it seems to me) that pledges "to each ability." One that's committed to social justice, environmental protection and is tempered by kindness, compassion, and egalitarianism. It requires courage and determination in its construction, and as imperfect as it might be in coming to pass therein lies our hope for tomorrow.

## authOr

### Herman Bell

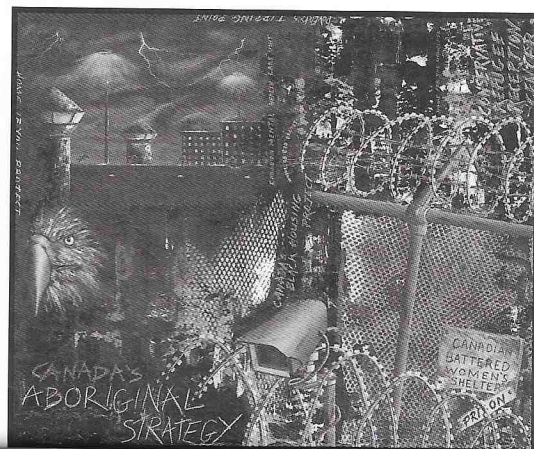
Please see Herman's bio on page 1 of the calendar.



### Peter Collins

was a writer, artist, musician, cartoonist, activist, organizer and advocate. Peter was a social critic who offered thoughtful insights about the structures of violence inherent in the world around us. His tireless commitment to social justice from inside prison made him a target of official harassment which ultimately prevented his release. Peter passed away on August 13, 2015 of bladder cancer after having served 32 years on a Life 25 prison sentence. He was 10 years past his parole eligibility dates.

## artist





# Mine-affected Communities in Honduras Defend Public Access to Water Sources

# august

Beads of sweat ran down people's faces as they fanned themselves with hats, documents, and anything else available. It was standing room only in the community hall, packed with residents from mine-affected communities in the Siria Valley, in central Honduras.

Siria Valley residents from the municipality of El Porvenir took a stand against a planned tourism project at an April 18, 2015, open town hall meeting (cabildo abierto) in the community of El Pedernal.

Together with a foundation linked to Vancouver-based mining giant Goldcorp and other NGOs, the municipal government of San Ignacio is planning an eco-tourism project around local hot springs that would cut off public access to important local sources of water.

Now closed, the San Martin open pit heap-leach gold mine operated in the municipality of San Ignacio, but many of the most affected communities and waterways are located downstream in the municipality of El Porvenir. Likewise, the European Union financed project planned by the San Ignacio municipal government would impact communities in El Porvenir like El Pedernal, which extends right up to the municipal border.

"What they're after is money," said Guayabillas community member Rolando Medina Cruz. "The people are saying no."

Elman Hidalgo, the mayor of San Ignacio, defended the project. Hidalgo was accompanied by a delegation of professional and NGO staff working on the project.

"The communities involved in this project were consulted," said Hidalgo. The intention is to protect the area and to institute order, not to take away anyone's rights, he said. The project has nothing to do with mining, he added.

Despite the assurances, the actual details of the eco-tourism initiative were not presented by any of the speakers from the San Ignacio delegation. Speakers promoting the project were met by increasingly loud jeers from the back of the hall.

Communities in the municipality of El Porvenir reject their exclusion from whatever consultation may have taken place concerning the tourism project, but the main crux of the matter is access to water. One of the mine's two open pits looms up the hill behind San Ignacio's hot springs, where sulfurous waters bubble to the surface.

A stream flowing from the hot springs source joins two others to form the Agua Tibia stream that eventually feeds the Playa River. The waterways are all used by community members for farming, ranching, and domestic use.

"We need water, and there isn't much water for a tourism project," said Rodolfo Arteaga. A member of the Siria Valley Environmental Committee, Arteaga is from Palo Ralo, the community that was relocated in order to make way for the mine. He is among the local residents whose hair and blood samples have come back with high levels of arsenic, lead, and other heavy metals. As a farmer, he has also dealt firsthand with the water scarcity and pollution left behind from the mine.

It's not the first time someone has tried to implement a project in the same spot, restricting access to the hot springs source. The last time it was attempted, roughly a decade ago, residents from neighbouring communities took part in a collective night-time action to tear down the concrete wall and barbed wire fencing that had been erected around the springs. "That project was destroyed in half an hour," Arteaga reminded the crowd and the delegation from San Ignacio.

In the nearby town of El Porvenir, a building is being fixed up to house a regional inter-institutional security force comprised of the national police, military police, the army, and intelligence agents. Officially, its main tasks include tackling street gangs and organized crime, but there are concerns it may be tasked with monitoring or repressing local struggles. Siria Valley environmental activists have been subject to death threats, intimidation, and criminalization over the years.

"We've been in the struggle to defend the environment in these three municipalities for 15 years now," said Roger Escobar, a member of the Siria Valley Environmental Committee.

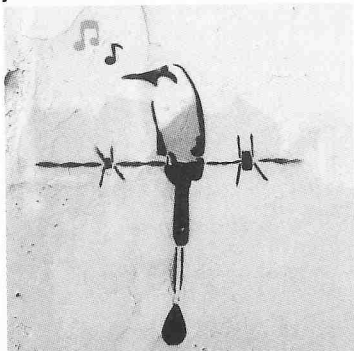
When San Ignacio mayor Hidalgo spoke once more as the meeting was wrapping up, he was all but shouted off stage. He requested that a couple points be included in the official minutes, including the fact that there was no opportunity to explain the project in detail because residents were shouting them down.

Several organizations traveled to El Pedernal to accompany local residents. Representatives from environmental, human rights, farmer and international solidarity groups were in attendance.

"The people are wise," said Dr. Juan Almandares Bonilla, a prominent Honduran human rights and environmental activist. Science and medicine need to serve the people, he said—a thinly veiled jab at the mayor of San Ignacio, who is also a doctor but who has had close ties to Goldcorp. "There can be no science without conscience," he said.

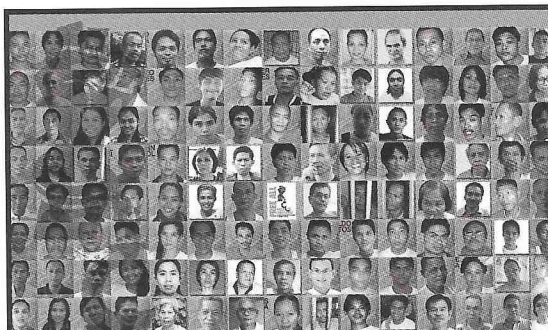
## authOr

**Sandra Cuffe** is a freelance journalist based in Central America.



**Cristina Palabay**, 36, is the Secretary General of Karapatan, a Philippine human rights organization which documents and monitors human rights violations in the country. Palabay is also a convener of Tanggol Bayi (Defend Women), an association of women human rights defenders in the Philippines.

## artist



**FREE ALL Political Prisoners!**

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#FreeAllPoliticalPrisonersPH



# Those That Fight It Are Called Terrorists, and Those That Survive It Are Called Criminals

The purpose of C-51 and all of these other laws, they say, is to defend Canada. Which Canada? Not the Canada that feeds us and our families, or the Canada that is communities of people that hold on to each other, hold on tight, and continue. No. C-51 defends another Canada. A rabid, immiserating Canada.

This Canada sprung forth into the world through the theft of Indigenous lands. Its birth a blood bath whose stains cannot be washed away by apologies. It burst into our world, the lives of our ancestors, striking fear, murdering, and stealing with impunity. This Canada created residential schools. The Hudson's Bay Company. The Sixties Scoop.

And those that fight it are called terrorists. And those that survive it are called criminals. Like the Mohawks of Kanesatake that fought for 78 days to stop a golf course being built on their burial grounds in 1990. Like the Innu occupations against the Goose Bay airfield strip in the late 80s. Like the Lubicon Cree, the Dene, the Chippewas, the Anishinaabe, the Algonquin, and many others that stand in the way of Canada's thirst for oil. Like the tens of thousands of Indigenous men, women and two-spirited people over-imprisoned.

This Canada is insecure, it insists that it is the best, the most generous. This Canada used Chinese workers to build railroads but would not let them be reunited with their families. This Canada sent back 400 Jews on the SS St. Louis to their slaughter. This Canada turned away the Punjabis on the Komagata Maru to a land colonized. This Canada imprisoned the Tamil asylum seekers on the MV Sun Sea and Ocean Lady. This Canada will imprison security certificate and immigration detainees for decades without charges and trial. This Canada wants to catalog every Black person on its shores.

And those who resist it like Mewa Singh are called terrorists. And those that try and survive in it are called criminals, illegals, immigrants.

This Canada forces us to work, not for our common good, but for the profit of the few. This Canada uses the bodies of those of us that move, that migrate as labour. But insists that our humanity is so foreign, it must be left at the door.

This Canada is full of hate. It tells us who to love and how to love. This Canada wants to empty its streets of our bodies and desires.

And those that resist it, by loving, by being, by fucking, are called terrorists. And those that live through it are called criminals. Raided upon in Ottawa and Montreal in 1975-76. In bathhouses in Toronto in 1981. A war on queers until well into the 1990s. A war on sex workers that continues today.

# September

This Canada wants you to vote, to select from amongst the few, but never speak of the many. This Canada wants you to obey. It will let you question, politely, and then tell you that speaking without being heard is enough.

And those that resist it are called terrorists and those that reject it are called criminals. This Canada jailed the communist Fred Rose. This Canada deported anarchist and communist organizers in 30s. This Canada framed Dudley Laws of the Black Action Defence Committee for human trafficking. This Canada carried out surgical strikes against community organizers and anarchists at the G20.

This Canada has no faith but fear. And this fear makes it side with Israel, brutalizing innocents in Libya, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan. And those of us who have called these and other places home are called terrorists and criminals. Like the 14 young men arrested for so-called terrorism in Project Thread but then deported on immigration grounds in 2003. Like the thousands of Muslim women whose ways of life are seen as threatening.

This is your Canada, our Canada. And in the hands and jails of this Canada, too many of us have been terrorists, too many of us criminal. And so today, either we proudly declare We Are All Terrorists. Or we insist in one loud voice that there are no terrorists.

Do not ask for laws that will be effective. Create justice that is inclusive.

Do not ask for your civil liberties. Be uncivil, be brave, and create collective freedom.

Do not ask for rights from a state, refuse the state.

Do not ask for accountability over these men with guns that steal our peace, demand that these arms are chopped off.

A brutal, vicious, greedy Canada has been breathing down on us for too long. It is our enemy. In the words of June Jordan, let us become a menace to our enemies.

Let our bodies and our songs, our words and our deeds in our bedrooms, our kitchens, our workplaces, these streets become audacious resistance.

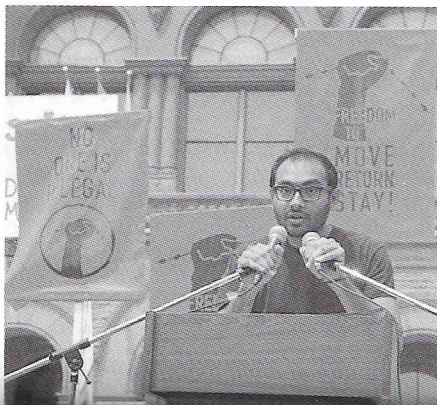
Do not fear that you may be next. Instead, look around and see who is already captured by this Canada and give your all for our collective freedom.

We are many. They are few. Though some days we may feel like worms, captured, powerless. Lets us grow. For when we say attack, they will hear nothing at first.

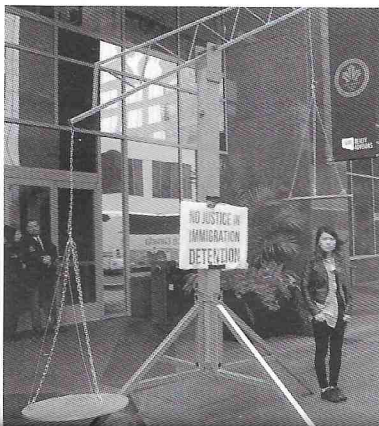
**Syed Hussan** lives in Toronto, and walks alongside migrant workers and undocumented people. He has been part of Indigenous sovereignty, environmental justice, anti-capitalist, and anti-racist movements for a bit and is still learning to be a better person. Your guidance is welcome.

Twitter:  
@hussansk

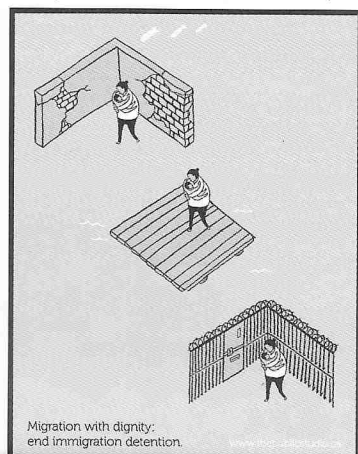
author



artist



**Tings Chak** is a Toronto-based multidisciplinary artist trained in architecture whose work draws inspiration from anti-colonial, migrant justice, prison abolition, and spatial justice struggles. The organizing work she is involved in formed the basis of her graphic novel, *Undocumented: The Architecture of Migrant Detention* (undocumented.ca).





## Models for Transformation in El Salvador

# October

The civil war in El Salvador ended a quarter of a century ago. But the legacy of the US-instigated conflict continues. It impacts children and families, who at fearful risk, seek greater economic opportunity in their country, but also in the US. In recent years, thousands have come to the US, seeking economic opportunities but were stopped at the border or landed instead in INS detention centers. This legacy impacts the country's economy, still controlled to a significant degree by the oligarchs who ruled for decades in the face of popular-based revolt. And it continues to fill El Salvador's jails and fuel a gang culture that tests the country's new progressive government, especially its ability to create an economy that works for all.

El Salvador is a country of six million people about the size of Connecticut. With the rise of the Farabundo Martí Front for National Liberation (FMLN), seeking a peoples' rebellion against the oligarchy and US colonial control, El Salvador became a target of the Reagan Administration. Upwards of 80,000 people died in the conflict, financed by Washington as part of the counterinsurgency offensive that plagued Central America throughout the 1980s. As the war-driven economy collapsed, many young Salvadorans left for the United States, mostly to settle in Southern California where gang warfare and prison became the norm. A brutal culture evolved as the gangs warred in and out of the California jails. Spillover back to Central America was inevitable, followed by federal orders to California to reduce its ballooning prison population. The subsequent wave of deportations kept the gangs going in El Salvador's prisons and urban areas, such as the capital city San Salvador. Many of the children trying to make it to the United States

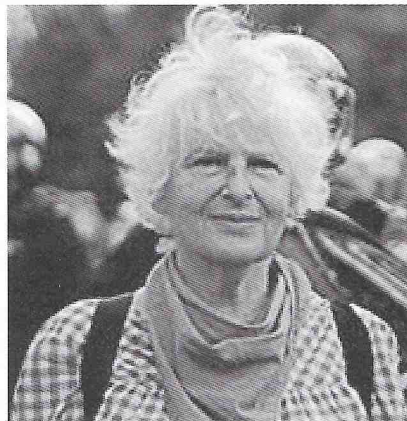
today are part of a wave of young refugees fleeing areas of poverty and violence that rank the country second in the world for per-capita killings among the civilian population.

One model for reversing this trend can be found in El Salvador's Lower (Bajo) Lempa Region, where some of the most effective and determined political work in Central America is currently taking place. The Lempa River (Central America's largest) empties into the Pacific Ocean at the Bay of Jiquilisco. The Mangrove Association, headquartered there, has been organizing in the Bajo Lempa since the end of the civil war, creating a model for rural economic development, while at the same time offering a constructive alternative to the youth of the area.

Members of the Association are working to protect the vast Bay of Jiquilisco, home to Central America's largest Mangrove forest, creating jobs and building the local economy by saving the local fishery and protecting endangered species, like sea turtles. The Mangrove Association leads the fight to protect local seed corn growers from competition from Monsanto-produced seeds imposed by US policy and trade agreements. And from its base in Ciudad Romero, named for the assassinated Salvadoran archbishop Oscar Romero, they run programs ranging from a youth-managed-and-operated radio station, to mangrove nurseries, lessons in organic farming and women's self-help groups. These are transforming the region and creating working models for other parts of the country.

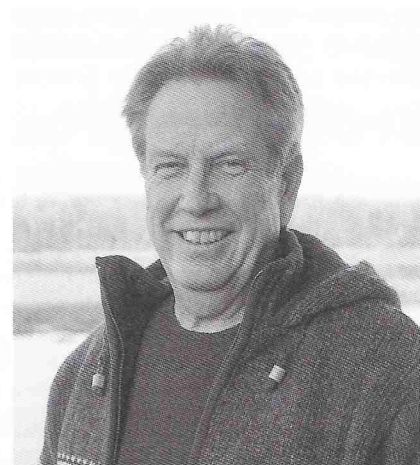
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## artist



**Freda Guttman** is a social activist and artist. She is involved in various collectives in Montreal that work for justice and peace at the local level and globally. Over the last 30 years she has experimented with ways of situating her art practice into the realm of the political, reaching out to people while attempting to be both informative and inspiring. She believes that there is power in a visual image that can hit people with a clarity and intensity beyond words.

## author



**Jeff Jones** is a long-time political activist based in Albany, New York, with a focus on climate and environmental justice. He is active with EcoViva, an Oakland, California-based group doing solidarity work in El Salvador. Jeff is the editor of *Brigadista*, *Harvest and War in Nicaragua*, an account of US citizens' experiences volunteering in the Nicaragua coffee harvests in the 1980s.



# Imperialism is the Common Enemy of the People

I grew up in Sanford, Maine's first French-Canadian neighbourhood, a working community dominated by textile mills, shoe factories, and a ruling power structure that didn't include us. Quebec, our ancestral home, was just a few hundred miles north, and about as far as my world view went.

Then the government came calling for teenagers to fight the American war in Viet Nam. The same teens that carried lunch pails to mills and factories. In 1965, two of my friends were killed. Albert G. was entangled in a mill machine and asphyxiated. Bobby B. went with the military right out of high school and got blown out of a helicopter in Viet Nam.

They say America gives you a choice, however narrow. The choice for many of us who grew up in the shadow of the mills was go to work until they came to get you for war.

I never heard of "internationalism" or "solidarity" as a youngster. What I heard was that my friends and I had an "obligation to serve" in time of war. After a stint in a factory, I entered the army and was fast tracked to Viet Nam in 1967. I didn't have a clue what the war was about.

This is how I ended up carrying a gun for U.S. imperialism, spearheaded by an invasion that was illegal, immoral, and insanely destructive to the Vietnamese people and their land. Had I known better at the time—had I known that the Vietnamese fought for their independence and freedom—I would have beat feet across the border to Quebec, or initiated some other form of resistance.

A war of genocidal proportions was my wake-up call.

After leaving the military, I became politically active against the war, and later a state coordinator of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Acts of "international solidarity" by my VVAW chapter included running Nixon's criminal underling, VP Agnew, out of the state when he had the temerity to promote the war crimes here. We also raised money for the Bach Mai hospital, which was destroyed by American bombs.

By the mid 1970s I was carrying a gun *against* imperialism, engaged in militant resistance that supported Puerto Rican independence, and the freedom struggle in South Africa. By the early 1980s, our actions expanded in support of those fighting for land and freedom in Central America.

For me, the road to international solidarity began with a war in which I ultimately identified with those fighting against an American invasion. I realized I had much more in common with the people of Viet Nam than with the criminal elite in Washington DC who unleashed death and devastation from their safe haven of class and privilege.

# no vember

Calendar Committee



The Vietnamese were great teachers. When asked in 1965 if he would like to send a message to the American people, Ho Chi Minh replied:

"The Vietnamese people are strong because of their just cause, their unity and gallantry, and because they enjoy the support of peace-loving peoples in the world, including the American people. It is because of their love of justice and humanity that many progressive Americans from all walks of life . . . have raised their voices and staged huge demonstrations against the Johnson administration policy of aggression in Viet Nam. Our people highly value this struggle of the American people."

He then added, "U.S. imperialism is the common enemy of our two peoples. With our united struggle, it will certainly be defeated."

Ten years after Ho said this, the American juggernaut was defeated in Viet Nam.

Fifty years after saying this, the principle is as applicable now as it was then. International solidarity remains a great weapon when utilized by the oppressed and their allies. A common enemy requires a unified response.

Black Lives Matter everywhere. A living wage matters to all workers. Poverty reflects unequal distribution of wealth on a global scale. Mass graves are a crime against humanity. Environmental destruction is an assault upon LIFE.

In the war to free their country, the Vietnamese taught us valuable lessons about courage, resilience, and unity. In the present era of rapacious global capitalism we are doomed if we neglect the lessons of the past.

As I write this, Caravana 43 is also in my thoughts. Caravana 43 flows from the blood of dozens of Mexicano students killed and "disappeared" by police near Ayotozinapa on September 26, 2014. In April and May 2015, the families of those murdered activist students traveled to 43 American communities to speak with one voice for justice, and to "build solidarity across the imposed border." They fully understand that the roots of a corrupt and repressive Mexican government are located in America's economic invasion of their land.

Begun small in scale but big in heart, Caravana 43 continues on the move and exemplifies international solidarity that forms the bonds and building blocks of liberation.

## artist

### Jess X. Chen

(b. 1992) is a first generation Chinese-American poet, artist/activist, and film director. She is the author of poetry chapbook, *From the Earthworm To The Night*. She is a member of the Justseeds Artists Co-operative. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, her work has been featured in Asian American International Film Festival, Culture Strike, The Wing Luke Museum, Yale Environmental Film Festival, and on three national tours of spoken word poetry. Her work exposes narratives of colonial trauma, Asian-American diaspora and collective protest by connecting the violences between the female, queer and coloured body and the body of the Earth.

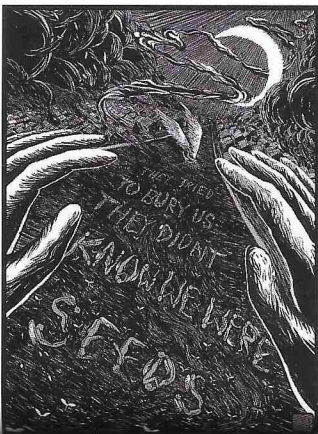
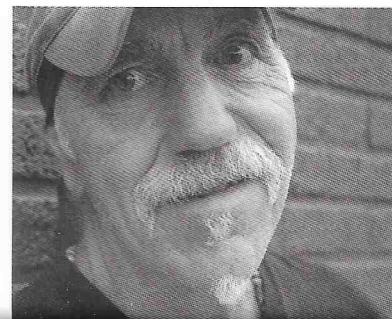


### Ray Luc Levasseur

Born and raised in Sanford, Maine's first French-Canadian neighbourhood. Fast tracked to Viet Nam and prison in the 1960s. Since 1968 engaged in political activism and crossing boundaries that led to underground life and further imprisonment. Presently advocate for political prisoners and work with the Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition. Carpenter by trade, homesteader by choice.

Photo: Orin Langelles  
(PhotoLangelles.org)

## authOr





# Statement of Support for Indigenous Struggles and Sovereignty

# december

We are the Status for All Coalition in Montreal, comprised of groups and individuals who are active in supporting migrant communities, particularly those communities faced with deportation and detention. We mobilize around four main demands: an end to detention, an end to all deportations, an end to the double punishment of migrants, and Status For All. Together, we are migrants and settlers; we are mainly non-natives, but we are also comprised of Indigenous peoples displaced from Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

As migrants, we are displaced from our homelands, due to global capitalism and imperialism. This reflects a global apartheid, whereby the global South is systematically exploited and oppressed, to the benefit of the global North. However, we believe we cannot speak meaningfully about apartheid globally, and unjust migration policies, without first speaking about the realities of apartheid here in Canada.

From its very foundations, Canada has been based on the theft of Indigenous lands, and the genocide and displacement of Indigenous peoples. In crucial ways, the Canadian state's treatment of Indigenous peoples, historically and currently, is an apartheid system—from the imposition of the Indian Act, band councils and reservation system, to stolen children and residential schools; from the continued theft of lands and resources by governments and corporations, to the cultural appropriation of native traditions and culture.

Today that legacy continues, whether through the disproportionate rate of incarceration of Indigenous peoples in the racist Canadian prison system; through the complicity of Canadian authorities in the disappearance or murder of hundreds of native women in the last three decades alone, through Children's Aid Societies taking the place of residential schools to continue the theft of native children; or through resource extraction projects such as the Alberta Tar Sands, which contribute to the ongoing environmental devastation of Indigenous territories.

Canada's genocidal past is celebrated in the names of our streets, towns, and cities, while continuing to erase the genuine identity of the original peoples of this land. The colonial Plan Nord in Quebec, which is predicated on the dispossession and destruction of native land, also seeks profit through the exploitation of migrant labour. The same militarized borders that separate migrants from their communities and tear families apart also cut a swath through the territories of Indigenous nations. The same federal government that imposes its jurisdiction over Indigenous people across Canada also presumes to dictate who is allowed to enter and leave these lands.

Many immigrants and refugees are themselves Indigenous, displaced from their lands in other parts of the world by a similar colonial process that is often spearheaded by Canadian interests, especially mining companies. And so the struggles for migrant justice and Indigenous self-determination are inter-connected. The very repression, displacement, and migration of communities in the so-called global South is driven by the violent expansion of Canadian foreign policy and its aggressive neocolonial agenda, alongside other manifestations of Western domination such as the World Bank, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Capitalist-driven free trade agreements and infrastructure projects—such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements, or the Plan-Puebla-Panama (PPP)—facilitate Canadian presence and the expansion of corporate multinationals, mega resource extraction projects, and growing military occupation, creating the conflicts, environmental devastation and economic oppression which forces migrants to leave their communities in the first place.

As Canada exploits the land and lives of people in the global South, its borders are increasingly shut to those whom capital has forcibly displaced. Canada represents a brutal colonial reality, rooted in the displacement and exploitation of Indigenous peoples and nations. Many of the places we come from also represent struggles against colonialism and neo-colonialism, against the processes of capitalist domination in our countries of origin, such as Algeria, Bangladesh, Burundi, China, the Congo, Egypt, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Mexico, Pakistan, Palestine, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka (to name but a few).

As people displaced by colonialism and neo-colonialism, we believe in the importance of allying with all those who survive and resist colonialism today on Turtle Island. In the face of more than five hundred years of colonialism, Indigenous communities continue to resist and survive. Their multifold and diverse struggles demand our active support, especially in the face of state repression and criminalization.

For those of us who are non-native, we have a role within our own communities to further the process of decolonizing Canada. Solidarity doesn't mean just watching with sympathy but actively listening to and learning from Indigenous communities, and resisting the colonial and capitalist ideologies and policies that are responsible for genocide.

author

This statement was signed by the Status for All Coalition (Montreal), Dignidad Migrante ([www.dignidadmigrante.org](http://www.dignidadmigrante.org)) Immigrant Workers Center ([iwc-cti.ca](http://iwc-cti.ca)), Mexicans United for Regularization ([mexregularizacion.org](http://mexregularizacion.org)), No One Is Illegal-Montreal ([nooneisillegal.org](http://nooneisillegal.org)), Solidarity Across Borders ([solidarityacrossborders.org](http://solidarityacrossborders.org)) and many allied individuals.

artist

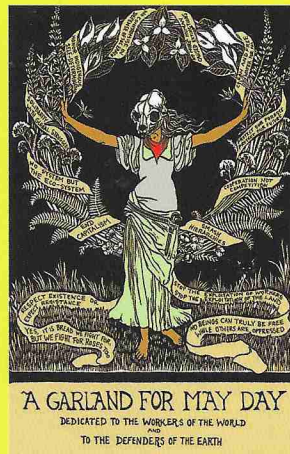
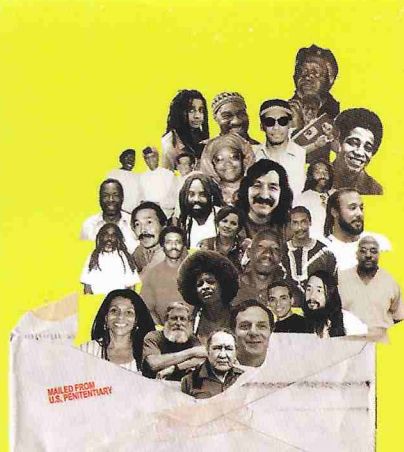
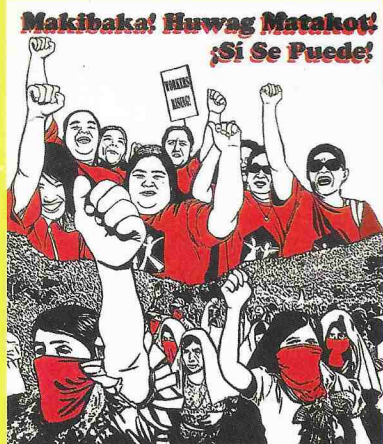


## Kinga Osz-Kemp

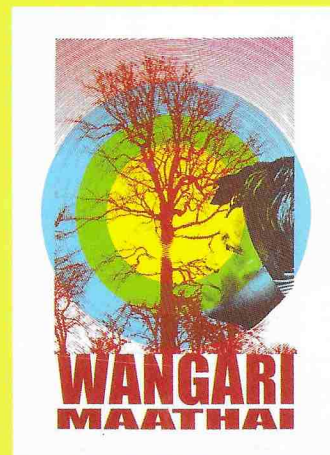
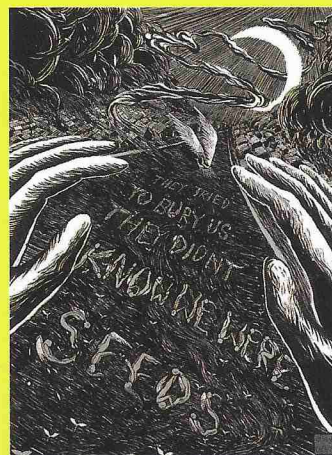
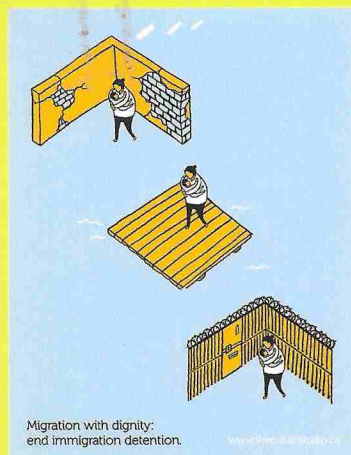
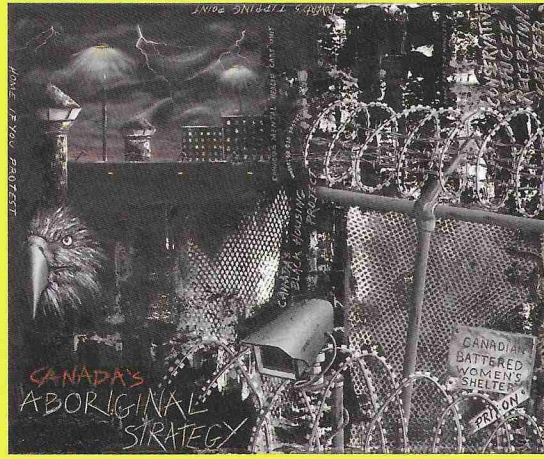
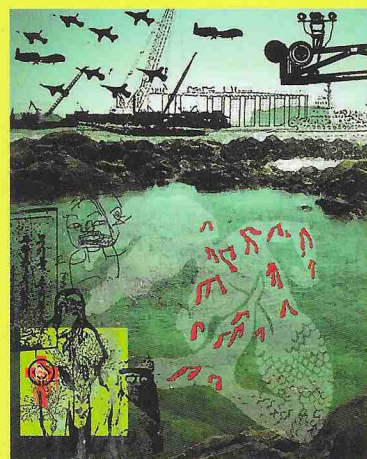
is a Detroit printmaker who helped establish and run a screen printing collective that strives to connect artists with resources and fellow thinkers and makers. Her work honours those that inspire her and remind her to keep centered on what's really important.







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