

certain DAYS:
the **2026**
freedOm for
Political Prisoners
Calendar



intro- ductions

The Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar is a joint fundraising and educational project between outside organizers across North America and political prisoner Xinachtli (s/n Alvaro Luna Hernandez) in Texas. We were happy to welcome founding members Herman Bell and Robert Seth Hayes (Rest in Power) home from prison in 2018, and founding member David Gilbert home from prison in 2021. We work from an anti-imperialist, anti-racist, anti-capitalist, feminist, queer- and trans-liberationist position.

The calendar: Today's struggles for liberation, and against capitalism's permanent war, ecological destruction, 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 for 40 years or more. Even more organizers have been locked up in the decades since. Yet these prisoners are not relics of past movements. They are still active in their political work. Despite the hardships of organizing in prison, they continue to organize for justice in the present day, behind bars, and on the streets. The dates from movement history noted/commemorated in the pages of this calendar serve to educate/remind us of that rich and ongoing tradition of resistance. Given that prison robs people of the ability to mark time—having access to calendars was one of the demands of the 2011 California prisoner hunger strike—creating a calendar that talks about prisons is an act of resistance in and of itself. We hope our work together on this calendar can act as a bridge between our various contexts: inside and outside the prison walls, the differing realities of the US and Canadian states, and between the movement generations.



Xinachtli (Nahuatl, meaning "seed") is a community organizer and Chicano movement revolutionary, currently imprisoned in Texas. Formerly known as Alvaro Luna Hernandez, he worked diligently in the barrio on civil and human rights issues, and is known widely for his legal skills. Xinachtli gained international recognition as the national coordinator of the Ricardo Aldape

Guerra Defense Committee, where he was instrumental in helping to free Mexican national Aldape Guerra from Texas' death row, where he had been framed for the murder of a police officer.

In July 1996 Xinachtli was arrested after disarming a sheriff who was attempting to shoot him. After defending himself at trial, Xinachtli was sentenced to 50 years in prison for aggravated assault, a charge he vehemently denies. While imprisoned, Xinachtli continues to write frequently, has helped to organize multiple prison strikes, and has been held in solitary confinement for the last 20 years and counting. Xinachtli

is a prolific jailhouse lawyer, as referenced by Mumia Abu Jamal in his book *Jailhouse Lawyers: Prisoners Defending Prisoners v the USA*.

For Xinachtli's latest mailing address, visit certaindays.org



Herman Bell



David Gilbert



Robert Seth Hayes

Our three founding collective members—Herman Bell, David Gilbert, and Robert Seth Hayes—are no longer in prison. Combined, they served over 125 years in New York state prisons for their political activism and involvement in revolutionary organizations. Sadly, Seth passed away in 2019, due in large part to the medical neglect he endured while incarcerated.

Hopefully the art and essays in the pages to follow inspire you to support those on the frontlines of struggle and those locked up for their activism, and to join the liberation struggle in whatever way you can. There are lessons to be learned from the inspiring words, beauty to be found in the art, and comfort to find in the enduring solidarity with people around the world. In lieu of an essay by the collective this year we are excited to share with you the below words from Jose Saldana, a former prisoner and member of Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP). Rage on!

- *Certain Days Collective*

A Duty to Win

The year 2025 has been a difficult one. The continued genocide in Gaza. Attacks on immigrants, reproductive rights, and gender identity. A climate in crisis. Defunding of social programs and bloating and militarization of law enforcement. Our small and scrappy movements don't always feel equipped to fight on all the fronts. This overwhelm isn't a coincidence. It is the deliberate strategy of reactionaries to undo any modest gains made by movements of resistance over the past 50 years and create a fruitful environment for our domestic fascist oligarchies.

As we see some of our old strategies prove ineffectual, I am reminded of Assata's words, "We have a duty to fight for our freedom. We have a duty to win." It is not enough to demonstrate our commitment to fight by showing up to losing battles. We have a responsibility to achieve victory. This is not necessarily a call to simply do the same things more forcefully. It is an invitation to breathe wisdom and equanimity into our strategizing. To do the right things; precisely and with excellence. Because winning doesn't just look like stopping fascism. Winning means liberty for all beings and a healing relationship between people and the earth. And because liberty doesn't mean an end to hardship—winning also means living a good life while in struggle. Our wish is that our descendants will look back on our time with pride in the work of their ancestors, and also see role models for living a good life.

Part of how our collective is changing to meet this moment is by expanding our work outside of North America. We have begun collaborating with supporting members in Europe to include more intercontinental content in the calendar and also to create stronger European distribution networks. We invite comrades who have connections to share in this regard to reach out and help us build broader and stronger. The fact of the matter is that people struggling for a better and more free world have more in common with each other than they do with any oligarch, anywhere.

As the calendar continues to grow, the collective is actually shrinking. Our founding inside collective members have finally been released. In our effort to "do the right things precisely and with excellence," we are encouraging comrades with interest in the project

"Such a fine sunny day and I have to go..."

— Sophie Scholl

Blessings in Disguise

By Alex Stokes, political prisoner

A book without a moral is not worth reading.

A story without sacrifice is not worth hearing.

*A lesson without challenge
is not worth learning.*

*A journey without
distance is not worth
taking.*

*A life without loss is
to never have loved.*

*And a life without
love is not worth
living.*

*Count your
blessings, even if
they are Blessings
in Disguise.*

*Testaments to
our mortality.*



Alex Stokes

to reach out and find ways to plug in. We can always use help getting current and thought-provoking art and essays in the calendar as well as with distribution across the world and a presence on tables at all the amazing events y'all are putting on and going to.

Everywhere there is struggle, we will hope to be alongside you. We desire for the words and images in the calendar can give you strength and hope, and help you act precisely and with excellence in your work. "We must love each other and support each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains."

— **Certain Days Collective: Amy, Garrett, Josh, and Leslie, with thanks to supporting members Dio, Ellen, e.war, Matty, Sara, Sove, and Xue**

proceeds

This Calendar is a Fundraiser

Each year, all proceeds from the sale of the ***Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar*** are donated to organizations and campaigns working to abolish the prison industrial complex and support those locked inside. Our proceeds are divided between the different organizations each year, based on the work being done and the timeliness of the efforts. One organization that has benefitted from the sale of the calendar for several years has been Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP).

Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP)

Based in New York State, the RAPP Campaign mobilizes currently and formerly incarcerated people, their families, and other concerned community members. They work alongside other prison justice advocates to raise public awareness about the destructiveness of mass incarceration and the benefits to society in releasing aging people, including those convicted of violent crimes who do not threaten public safety and promote the use of key mechanisms for releasing elderly people, such as parole, compassionate release, and policy changes.

Past recipients have included:

Abolitionist Law Center abolitionistlawcenter.org
Addameer addameer.org
All of Us or None anewwayoflife.org/all-of-us-or-none
Amistad Law Project amistadlaw.org
Anti-Racist Action - Toronto
Austin ABC atxanarchistblackcross.wordpress.com
Barton Prisoner Solidarity facebook.com/bartonsolidarityproject
Malcolm X Grassroots Organizing Committee freethelandmxgm.org
National Bail Fund Network
communityjusticeexchange.org/en/nbfn-directory
Native Youth Movement facebook.com/nativeyouthmovement
New York State Taskforce on PPs
No One Is Illegal - Montréal facebook.com/nooneisillegalmontreal
Olympic Resistance Network
Prison Health News prisonhealthnews.wordpress.com
Palestinian Youth Movement palestinianyouthmovement.com
Rosenberg Fund for Children rfc.org
Six Nations Land Defenders Legal Defense Fund
Solidarity Across Borders solidarityacrossborders.org
The Freedom Archives freedomarchives.org
The G20 Legal Defence Fund clac-montreal.net/en/fund_G20
Transgender Gender Variant Intersex Justice tgijp.org
Tucson Anti-Repression Crew instagram.com/tucsonantirepression
Unist'ot'en Camp unistoten.camp

Sell Certain Days and raise funds for your project or group

Distribute the calendar in your community or sell it at your events.
Bulk orders (10+ copies) \$10 each, make \$5 per copy you sell.
contact us: info@certaindays.org
order directly: certaindays.org

Thanks to all who have made this calendar possible, including:

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Georges Abdallah
Gwen Ricordeau
Hannah Gelderman
Herman Bell
Jamila Levasseur
Jess X. Snow
Jesse "T.C." Cannon
Jonas Goonface
Josh Harper
Juan Hernandez
Julie Goonan
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Karl Kersplebedeb
Krime
Krystal DiPippa
Laura Whitehorn
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Mai Tran
Marina Sitrin
Marius Mason
Mica
Olly Costello
Peppy DiPippa
QPIRG Concordia
RAPP
Roy Pike
Sara Falconer
Siarhei Ramanau
Susan Rosenberg
Tim Blunk
Xinachtli
Xue

ONGOING CASES & EVENTS

On April 10, 2024, **Hridindu Roychowdhury** was sentenced to 90 months in federal prison for attacking a building with a Molotov cocktail in the wake of the leak of the draft opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, overruling *Roe v. Wade*. abcf.net

On January 6, 2025, **Peppy (Brian DiPippa)** was sentenced to serve 60 months followed by 3 years of supervised release. His partner and codefendant **Krystal DiPippa** was sentenced to 3 years of probation. They were jointly sentenced to pay \$50,000 in restitution for charges stemming from a demonstration against a University of Pittsburgh-sanctioned event promoting transphobic hate speech. freepeppyandkrystal.noblogs.org

The trial of Red Army Faction (RAF) combatant **Daniela Klette** began on March 25, 2025. After going underground in the 1990s, Klette was captured in Germany in February 2024 using facial recognition software.

In March 2025, **Gabby (Gabriella) Oropesa** was sentenced to 120 days as part of the Jane's Revenge trial of the "Florida 4" (see releases of other defendants below) on felony conspiracy charges based on the "heinous" crime of spray painting the outside of a fake abortion clinic when it was closed. Such law breaking in any other situation would have led to a misdemeanor charge and perhaps a small fine. cldc.org

Jakhi McCray, facing charges of allegedly burning 10 NYPD vehicles in June 2025, was released in August 2025 on house arrest. He faces from 5 to 20 years if convicted. [instagram.com/jakhisolidarity](https://www.instagram.com/jakhisolidarity)

In January 2025, **Casey Goonan**, a doctoral graduate and East Bay resident, pleaded guilty to a federal arson charge stemming from a series of pro-Palestine protests. As of calendar printing, Casey's sentencing is scheduled for September 23, 2025. abcf.net

Every year, political prisoners and their supporters prepare for a day of synchronized resistance: **Running Down the Walls**. Held in September, the 5K run/walk/jog/roll is more than a fundraiser—it's a living thread of solidarity, stitching together those inside and outside the prison walls. abcf.net

RELEASES

Mufid Abdulqader of the Holy Land Foundation Five was released to a halfway house on December 14, 2024, after nearly 20 years in prison. HLF5 members Ghassan Elashi and Shukri Abu Bakr remain imprisoned today.

Captain Paul Watson was released from prison in Greenland on December 17, 2024. He spent five months in custody after Denmark rejected a Japanese request to extradite him for anti-whaling activities in the Antarctic.

updates



Siamese Romanian, a Belarusian prisoner. abc-belarus.org/en/2020/10/30/segey-romanov/

Pro-choice activists **Annarella Rivera** and **Amber Smith-Stewart** were released in January 2025 after being sentenced to 30 days for charges related to painting alleged Jane's Revenge graffiti on anti-abortion centres. **Caleb Freestone** was released from federal prison to a halfway house on April 30. cldc.org

Native American activist **Leonard Peltier** was released from prison on February 18, 2025, after then-President Biden commuted his life sentence, following nearly 50 years of wrongful incarceration. He will serve the remainder of his sentence with his community on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in North Dakota. freeleonardpeltiernow.org

Mahmoud Khalil, a Palestinian activist and former Columbia University student, was released from immigration detention on June 20, 2025, after being held for over three months.

Pro-Palestinian activist **Georges Ibrahim Abdallah** was welcomed home to Lebanon on July 25, 2025 after 40 years of imprisonment in France.

Antifascist **Jesse "Tall Can" Cannon** was released on August 5, 2025. He was incarcerated for allegedly participating in militant community defense against American Guard and Proud Boys in San Diego in 2021. phillyabc.org

Toby Shone walked free from HMP Garth, Lancashire, England, on November 11, 2024, after serving almost four years in prison on terrorism and drug charges. Shone was accused of being the administrator of counter-information project 325, but was not found guilty of these charges.

REST IN POWER

Bilal Sunni Ali, a revolutionary, musician and member of the Black Panther Party and Black Liberation Army, died on December 30, 2024. "From his earliest to his latest years, he believed that music was a powerful tool of human healing... He was surrounded by an ocean of love. Now he plays music with the ancestors."
—Mumia Abu-Jamal. prisonradio.org

José "Cha Cha" Jiménez, Chairman and Founder of the Young Lords Organization in Chicago, and Co-Founder of the Rainbow Coalition, died on January 10, 2025, at the age of 76. A pivotal figure in the civil rights and liberation movements in the US, Cha Cha's legacy is defined by his revolutionary spirit, steadfast vision for Puerto Rican self-determination, and unwavering commitment to justice.

British Animal Liberation Front (ALF) activist, hunt saboteur and animal rights investigator **Karl Garside** died from heart disease at the age of 59 on July 17, 2025. Active in animal liberation for four decades, Garside may hold the record for most places broken into without being caught, though Karl and his wife Bev were briefly imprisoned in the mid-1980s, following a mass raid at ICI's Alderley Edge laboratories.



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.

Make no mistake, 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 US 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 Black, Latinx and Indigenous communities.

Canada has followed suit when it comes to getting "tough on crime," though the **realities in Canada and the US are not identical**. Importantly, the ways in which Canada's colonial strategies have differed from those of the US—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 imprisonment 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 3—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 have led far-reaching struggles, such as the Pelican Bay hunger strikers who led a unified action against prolonged isolation (torture) that mobilized 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. Around the globe, 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 US. 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. Poor 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; acts of self-defence, crimes of poverty, and the high costs of transitioning are all contributing factors. 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 both guards and prisoners. Since prisons are gender-segregated, transgender and gender non-conforming people are frequently held in institutions that don't match their gender, and are placed in "protective custody" (solitary confinement). Trans people in prison are often denied access to healthcare such as hormones and gender confirming 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, violence, poverty, and environmental devastation. The constant threat of detention and deportation is 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 US 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 Canadian and US prisons. 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 are cut, people with mental health or addiction issues—especially those from politically oppressed groups—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.

Aging prison population: The US metes out some of the longest prison sentences in the world, and because keeping

people in prison serves capitalists’ needs, not many people get paroled. 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 and caregivers out of families, and elders out of neighbourhoods. The resulting economic and social stresses means 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 By Political Prisoners

Live From Death Row, Jailhouse Lawyers, We Want Freedom, Writing on the Wall, Death Blossoms, & more by **Mumia Abu-Jamal**

A Soldier's Story: Revolutionary Writings by a **New Afrikan Anarchist** by **Kuwasi Balagoon**

Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist & Prison Blossoms by **Alexander Berkman**

No Bars to Manhood & Lights on in the House of the Dead: A Prison Diary by **Daniel Berrigan**

Prison Journals of a Priest Revolutionary by **Philip Berrigan**

Look for Me in the Whirlwind: From the Panther 21 to 21st-Century Revolutions by **Dhoruba Bin Wahad**, et al.

The Blue Agave Revolution & Love Me Rebel Love Me by **Oso Blanco**

The Risks Worth Taking: Poetry and Art from a Decade of Imprisonment by **Tim Blunk**

Hauling Up the Morning: Writings & Art by Political Prisoners & Prisoners of War in the U.S.

edited by **Tim Blunk & Ray Luc Levasseur**

Inside/Out: Selected Poems by **Marilyn Buck**

The War Before: The True Life Story of Becoming a Black Panther, Keeping the Faith in Prison, and Fighting for Those Left Behind by **Safiya Bukhari**

& edited by **Laura Whitehorn**

Marshall Law: The Life & Times of a Baltimore Black Panther & The Greatest Threat: The Black Panther Party and COINTELPRO by **Marshall Eddie Conway**

Rattling the Cages: Oral Histories of North

American Political Prisoners edited by **Josh Davidson & Eric King**

Angela Davis: An Autobiography & If They Come in the Morning ... Voices of Resistance edited by **Angela Y. Davis**

Love & Struggle & No Surrender by **David Gilbert**

Living My Life, volumes I & II by **Emma Goldman**

Blood in My Eye & Soledad Brother by **George Jackson**

Imprisoned Intellectuals & The New Abolitionists edited by **Joy James**

A Clean Hell: Anarchy and Abolition in America's Most Notorious Dungeon by **Eric King**

From the Bottom of the Heap: The Autobiography of a Black Panther by **Robert Hillary King**

README.text by **Chelsea Manning**

For Love and Liberty by **Tom Manning**

Lumpen: The Autobiography of Ed Mead by **Ed Mead**

Letters from Attica by **Sam Melville**

Our Gun, Our Consciousness, and the Collective: Letters from the Discussion in Prison by **Ulrike Meinhof**

We Are Our Own Liberators: Selected Prison Writings & Escaping the Prism ... Fade to Black by **Jalil Muntaqim**

Revolutionary Suicide & To Die for the People by **Huey P. Newton**

Insights & Poems by **Huey P. Newton & Ericka Huggins**

Prison Writings: My Life is My Sun Dance by **Leonard Peltier**

Let Freedom Ring: A Collection of Documents from the Movements to Free U.S. Political Prisoners edited by **Matt Meyer**

Between Torture and Resistance by **Oscar Lopez Rivera**

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

Writings from Prison & One Day in My Life by **Bobby Sands**

Remembering the Armed Struggle: My Time with the Red Army Faction by **Margrit Schiller**

Assata: An Autobiography by **Assata Shakur**

Maroon the Implacable: The Collected Writings & I Am Maroon: The True Story of an American Political Prisoner

by **Russell Maroon Shoatz**

Prison Roundtrip by **Klaus**

Viehmänn (with a preface by **Bill Dunne**)

All Power to the People by **Albert 'Nuh' Washington**

Flying Close to the Sun: My Life and Times as a Weatherman by **Cathy Wilkerson**

Solitary: Unbroken by Four Decades in Solitary Confinement. My Story of Transformation and Hope by **Albert Woodfox**

for comrades who ask, "what is to be done?" during this particular historical conjuncture, a (partial) list of practical things to do.

throw a stone
throw another
fire a poem
slash a tire
raise a fist
raise your voice
raise a child
wear a mask
paint a slogan
paint a dream
honor the martyrs
build a barricade
build a network
claim your history
claim the streets
sing a message
shoot a bullet
sow a seed
set a fire
break a window
break a sweat
rent a safehouse
learn from workers
teach a comrade
mark the time
free a p.o.w.
steal the files
steel your heart
hound a landlord
feed the homeless
squat a building
join a cell
learn a kata
memorize the code
cut the bars
vault the fence
clear the perimeter
swim the river
disarm a cop
disable a missile
create a diversion
tell a joke
secure a march
walk the picket
pick a lock
bait a trap
spring an ambush
blow a horn
make a plan
plan a back-up
cut the wires
wreck the tracks
lose a tail
find your hope
raise the stakes
change your name
wipe for prints
test a theory
challenge a dogma
change a diaper

print a leaflet
forge a document
shelter a fugitive
bind a wound
love a friend
hold a lantern
hold your ground
clean your weapon
practice your aim
strike a chord
strike a blow
tell the truth
trick the man
hold a meeting
take a beating
hold your tongue
watch your back
watch the sky
cut a trail
leave no traces
pick a target
launch a rocket
slip the noose
slip the checkpoint
use your fear
tighten the drum
plant a thought
tend the orchard
cherish a tear
commit it to memory
check your ego
study the map
deal with the traitors
silence the snitch
start from scratch
carry your weight
take on some more
fight to love
say it again
cross the line
take us with you
don't look back

— Tim Blunk
6/87 U.S.P. Marion

january

authOr

Tim Blunk is a former US political prisoner who served over 13 years in some of America's most notorious prisons for his activism in resistance to racism, US support for apartheid in South Africa, and involvement in Central America during the 1980s. His prison term included seven years in solitary confinement in USP Marion. From his cell in Marion, he curated and organized his first exhibition, making use of his extensive correspondences to solicit and collect artworks from political prisoners in 17 countries from around the world. Tim appeared on the ABC television news program 20/20 in a nationally aired segment documenting the international campaign against Marion's use of solitary confinement as a form of psychological torture. His case was recognized and documented by both Amnesty International and US Human Rights Watch. busyhominid.com

artist



Hannah Gelderman (*she/her*) is a settler of Dutch descent, living in the region called Amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton, AB, Canada). She is a visual artist, arts educator, and climate justice organizer. Hannah's art is a tool that she uses to navigate the pain and disruption of this moment, share ideas that motivate her, and envision what change is possible. She invites viewers to reflect their own connections, emotions and actions in the face of the world we live in. She works in 2D media, primarily collage, drawing, block printing and silk screen printing. hannahgelderman.com @hannahgelderman on Instagram.

In the winter of 2025, before the Zionists unilaterally ended the so-called ceasefire on March 18, unleashing total hell on Gaza with over 80 airstrikes in ten minutes, my emotions surged with every release of Palestinian prisoners.

The homecoming for the prisoners was always a sight to behold. Despite Zionist threats of more brutality if the Palestinians celebrated the return of their loved ones, thousands took to the streets to await each bus carrying the newly released.

I will never forget the sight of those men, women, and children emerging from the buses, lifted onto welcoming shoulders, carried through the crowds while they flashed victory signs. The joyful ululations. Even during their last hours and moments in captivity they were beaten by the Zionists, and many were so emaciated that their families barely recognized them. But their homecoming was a triumph, despite the violence of ongoing Zionist occupation, despite their knowing that it was only a matter of time before many would be rearrested.

Here on Turtle Island, in the heart of the amerikan empire, crowds do not gather to welcome the return of our political prisoners. Perhaps some of that is due to geography—prisons are deliberately placed in sparsely populated areas, hidden away, making

visitation an expensive ordeal and reducing the likelihood that anyone but immediate family will be waiting at the gate upon the captive's release. But it is more than that. Sadly, most people in this country do not value the sacrifices made by our political prisoners, if they're even aware that such principled people exist. But those of us who are activists should know better.

We need to embrace everyone who dares challenge this racist system, everyone who strives for a better world where all creatures might live with dignity, a world where we honor and protect our Mother Earth, a world where we respect each other regardless of our differences.

Our political prisoners have given their freedom to fight for justice, and they all deserve support—from all of us who call ourselves activists. It doesn't matter whether we agree with the tactics that got them locked up. It doesn't matter if they call themselves communists, socialists, anarchists or something else. It doesn't matter to what organization, if any, they belong. Their religious affiliation, or lack thereof, does not matter.

What matters is that they are our political prisoners. They chose to fight for justice despite the risks.

We have much to learn from Palestine.

authOr



Jamila Levasseur grew up in the shadow of Nazi Germany's genocide. She organizes with Palestine solidarity groups in Maine, writes about resistance and shares her life with former political prisoner Ray Luc Levasseur and at least one cat.

artist



Olly Costello (*they/them*) is a non-binary, queer illustrator, prison industrial complex abolitionist, urban food growing enthusiast and community seed saver who is committed to the creative, collective work of building a liberated and flourishing future for all of us. Through their artistic and community-based practices they explore themes of interconnectedness, spiritual ecology, emergence, accountability, community building, abolition, transformative justice and belonging. Olly finds direction and purpose in recognizing the power our radical imaginations have in shaping the world we live in and knows that this is one of our most essential tools. Olly hopes their work can be a small part of creating our new culture that is grounded in honoring the inherent sacredness of all beings and pushing us beyond violent cultures of imperialism, capitalism and white supremacy toward a culture of accountability, collective healing and abundance.
ollycostello.com

Call for 2027 Art & Article Submissions

march

Our Duty to Win

*It is our duty to fight for our freedom.
It is our duty to win.
We must love each other and support each other.
We have nothing to lose but our chains.*
— **Assata Shakur, Assata: An Autobiography**

The Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar collective will be releasing our 2027 calendar in September 2026. The theme for 2027 is "Our Duty to Win" and all submissions should seek to address what this phrase means in the context of today's struggle and the timeliness of Assata's words to us 40 years after they were written. So please submit your abolition-related art and articles for consideration for the calendar, which hangs in more than 6,000 homes, workplaces, prison cells, and community spaces around the world. We encourage contributors to submit new work whenever possible.

We especially seek submissions from people in prison or jail, so please forward this call to any prison-based artists and writers.

Deadline: Sunday, May 31, 2026

Format Guidelines

ARTICLES Due to space limitations, submissions may be lightly edited for clarity and concision, with no change to the original intent.

400-500 words max. If you submit a longer piece, we will have to edit for length.

Poetry is also welcome but needs to be significantly shorter than 400 words to accommodate layout. Please include a suggested title.

ART The calendar is 11" tall by 8.5" wide, so art with a 'portrait' orientation is preferred. Art need not fit those dimensions exactly.

We are interested in a diversity of media. The calendar is printed in colour and we prefer colour images.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Send your submissions and brief bio by **May 31, 2026** to info@certaindays.org

ARTISTS You can send a low-res file as a submission, but if your piece is chosen, we will need a high-res version of it for print (600 dpi).

You may send as many submissions as you like. Chosen artists and authors will receive a free copy of the calendar and promotional postcards. Because the calendar is a fundraiser, we cannot offer money to contributors.

Prisoner submissions are due **June 14, 2026** and can be mailed to:

Certain Days
c/o Burning Books
420 Connecticut Street
Buffalo, NY 14213

artist

Emily Thiessen is an illustrator, muralist, and screen printer with a fire for creative troublemaking. She cut her teeth designing climate march posters and screen printing patches on bedsheets. She now lives on K'omoks territories on Vancouver Island and organizes with Comox Valley for Palestine. Emily comes from two lines of restless settlers: Hokkien Chinese-Malaysians, and Mennonites who immigrated to Manitoba. Her work is inspired by plants and animals, magic, and people power. emilythiessen.ca



Statement by Georges Abdallah, June 18, 2022:

april

On the occasion of June 19, International Day of the Revolutionary Prisoner

In these times of crisis, war, and great struggles, knowing that you are mobilized today—as you are every year—to take to the streets and celebrate the “International Day of the Revolutionary Prisoner” fills me with strength and warms my heart. Your mobilization, Comrades, in all the diversity of your engagement, is more than invigorating for those who, for so many years, have spoken mostly from behind bars.

How can we not ask ourselves, Comrades, in these times of global crisis of globalized capitalism and the intensification of all its contradictions, whether it is time to give a more ambitious horizon to the “International Day of the Revolutionary Prisoner?” Perhaps it is necessary on this occasion to affirm that it is no longer just about expressing unwavering solidarity with our imprisoned comrades in the Zionist jails, or in the prisons of fascism in Turkey or elsewhere in the world. Perhaps it is time to declare that the celebration of the “International Day of the Revolutionary Prisoner” is now, above all else, intended to call upon and encourage the living forces of revolution and its militant vanguards, to implement all necessary measures to practically express the firm determination to wrest our comrades from the claws of their criminal jailers.

Of course, Comrades, this is not about loudly proclaiming some kind of moral duty towards our captive comrades. It is simply about combining the capacities of revolutionary forces—nationally, regionally, and internationally—and making the liberation of our comrades a priority within the broader dynamic of current, active struggles.

Indeed, let us remember, Comrades, that on several occasions in the not-so-distant past, the vanguards of the Palestinian revolutionary struggle have taken

on this task with great courage and selflessness, forcing the enemy to release thousands of captive comrades. Surely, the liberation of revolutionary prisoners has always been a moment of great popular effervescence and has always nourished and strengthened bonds of solidarity on an international scale. In doing so, it has significantly contributed to the prominence of the Palestinian revolution and enriched the anti-imperialist/anti-capitalist struggle—nationally, regionally, and even more so internationally.

As you can see, Comrades, inter-imperialist contradictions are now taking center stage on the international scene. Nothing suggests that they will diminish any time soon. Against the backdrop of the global crisis of the capitalist system, these contradictions are bound to intensify further and spread across the planet. It must be said that the loss of global hegemony by U.S. imperialism is pushing it to a headlong rush toward increased aggression toward other imperialist powers—and especially toward increased criminal hostility toward independent states that are somewhat defiant in its eyes...

Honor to the Martyrs and to the struggling popular masses!

Down with imperialism and its Zionist watchdogs and other Arab reactionaries!

Capitalism is nothing but barbarism—honor to all those who oppose it in all their diverse forms!

Palestine will live, and Palestine will, without a doubt, triumph.



authOr

Georges Abdallah was born in Lebanon. He is a Marxist-Leninist

and former member of the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Factions (LARF). Born in 1951, he became involved in the resistance during the Lebanese Civil War. In 1984, he was arrested in France and convicted for his involvement in the assassinations of US and

Israeli diplomats in Paris. He has been imprisoned in France ever since, despite being eligible for release since 1999. Abdallah is the longest-serving political prisoner in Europe and has become a symbol of anti-imperialist and Palestinian solidarity movements across the globe. He remained politically active from prison. He was released on July 25, 2025.

artist



Krime is an anarchist illustrator, screen printer, and propagandist based in the South West of the UK. krime.uk

**ANOTHER WORLD
IS POSSIBLE**



December 2025

art by Hannah Gelderman

February 2026

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january

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Su M T W Th F S

Depuis des années, le mouvement queer met en garde contre les politiques identitaires visant la reconnaissance symbolique : ces tentatives de classier les identités dans le but d'obtenir des supposés droits. On observe aujourd'hui les dérives de ces politiques qui impacteront de manière disproportionnée les personnes trans marginalisées de nos communautés. Cette situation est alarmante et témoigne de la montée du fascisme qui s'opère ici aussi, pas seulement aux États-Unis. Que le gouvernement se dote d'outils pour classier et répertorier les femmes trans est un signal d'alarme important à ne pas passer sous silence. - « Transphobie et incarcération », frontrose.gay

1

1804 · Haitian independence is won

1959 · Cuban revolution victorious

1994 · Mexico: NAFTA signed; Zapatista uprising

Last day of Kwanzaa
New Year's Day

2

1973 · San Quentin prisoners strike

3

○
full moon

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◐
last quarter

1912 · South Africa: ANC founded

2015 · Phil Africa dies in prison

11

12

13

2017 · Canadian Indigenous leader Arthur Manuel dies

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

2014 · CeCe McDonald released

14

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

15

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

16

17

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

1991 · US: Canadian & other imperialist UN forces attack Iraq

1915 · New Westminster, BC: Anti-racist martyr Mewa Singh hanged

18

●
new moon

19

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24

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

2023 · Atlanta police killed Tortugueta at Stop Cop City encampment

MLK Day

1983 · British Columbia: Direct Action arrested, known as Squamish 5

2001 · US anti-imperialists Linda Evans & Susan Rosenberg released

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

Trans Prisoner Day of Action

2007 · San Francisco 8 arrested

25

26

◐
first quarter

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

1944 · Angela Y. Davis born

1974 · Minnesota Prisoners Union formed at Stillwater

2017 · Quebec City: mass shooting at the Islamic Centre mosque; 6 killed & 19 injured

1972 · Derry, Ireland: Bloody Sunday
1968 · Tet Offensive begins in Vietnam

WHAT WE DO IN CONNECTION

PALESTINE
WILL BE
FREE

MAKES THE WORLD

~RICARDO LEVINS MORALES



January 2026

art by Olly Costello

March 2026

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february

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Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1  full moon 1960 · Greensboro, NC: Sit-in against segregation 2017 · Vaughn 17 prisoner uprising in Delaware	2	3 	4	5	6 1976 · Canada: AIM member Leonard Peltier captured by police 2020 · RCMP invade Wet'suwet'en territory; solidarity blockades spread across Canada	7  1997 · CA: Norma Jean Croy released from prison
8	9  last quarter	10	11 1953 · Eisenhower denies clemency to Rosenbergs due to 'nature of the crime' 1990 · Nelson Mandela released from prison after 27 years	12 1971 · Raiford Prison, FL: 63 peaceful hunger strikers shot	13	14  Valentine's Day
15 1984 · Sekou Odinga sentenced for Assata Shakur liberation 2003 · Oakland: After 35 years, Lil' Bobby Hutton's gravesite receives tombstone	16 <i>Family Day (AB, SK, ON, NB)</i> <i>Heritage Day (NS)</i> <i>Islander Day (PEI)</i> Louis Riel Day (MB) <i>President's Day (US)</i> <i>Family Day (BC)</i>	17  new moon Ramadan begins Lunar New Year	18	19	20 1942 · 120,000 Japanese-Americans sent to internment camps	21 1965 · NYC: Malcolm X assassinated
22	23	24  first quarter 1976 · SD: AIM activist Anna Mae Aquash found dead Día de la Bandera (Mexico)	25	26	27 1973 · SD: Oglala Sioux & AIM seize town of Wounded Knee 1989 · Caracas, Venezuela: Popular revolt against neo-liberal policies	28 2004 · US troops remove democratically elected Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide

NONE OF US
ARE FREE



UNTIL WE'RE
ALL FREE

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march

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Su M T W Th F S

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

full moon

1954 · Washington, DC: Puerto Rican Nationalists attack US congress

2006 · SHAC 7 convicted & sentenced to 3-6 years

International Sex Workers' Rights Day

1857 · Dred Scott decision

1970 · NYC: 3 members of Weather Underground die in accidental explosion

8

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last quarter

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14

1971 · PA: "Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI" raid FBI office exposing COINTELPRO documents

International Women's Day

Daylight Savings Time begins

1976 · WA: George Jackson Brigade member John Sherman liberated

2008 · Marius Mason arrested

2016 · NE: Former Black Panther Mondo We Langa dies after 44 years in prison

1976 · WA: George Jackson Brigade member Mark Cook captured

1988 · 500 Palestinian police resign in protest of Israeli policies

1998 · Merle Africa dies in prison

1973 · North Carolina Prisoners' Union formed

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new moon

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21

International Day Against Police Brutality
Laylat al-Qadr

1968 · Mỹ Lai massacre
1792 · Denmark becomes first Western country to outlaw the slave trade

2003 · Palestine: ISM volunteer Rachel Corrie killed by Israeli forces

Laylat al-Qadr

1992 · Escaped Puerto Rican political prisoner Luis Colón Osorio is recaptured

2008 · The KIG, Indigenous leaders opposed to mining on First Nations land, sentenced to 6 months

International Day of Political Prisoners (Germany)

Eid-al-Fitr

Spring Equinox

Human Rights Day (South Africa)
Ramadan ends

22

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first quarter

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1990 · Dhoruba Bin-Wahad released from prison after 19 years; 1st case reversed due to COINTELPRO

2016 · BC: Wolverine, former PP from Gustafsen Lake standoff, dies

1977 · NJ: Assata Shakur convicted of murder & sentenced to life + 33 years in prison

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1985 · Chile: Brothers Rafael and Eduardo Vergara Toledo killed during the military dictatorship
Day of the Young Combatant (Chile)

2018 · Great March of Return begins. 110 Palestinians killed, over 13,000 wounded by Israel.

César Chávez Day
International Transgender Day of Visibility

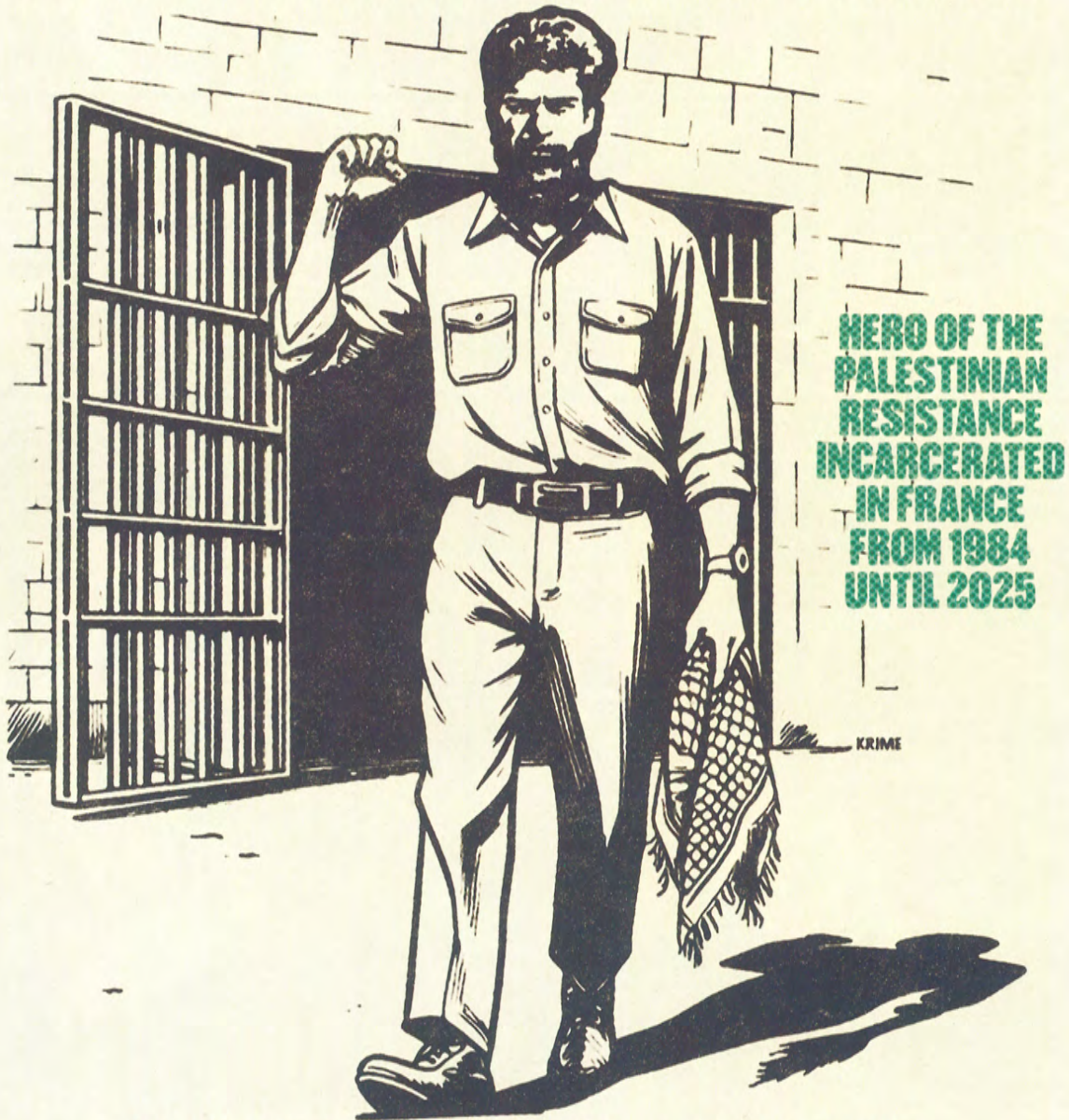
Art and essay submissions for the 2027 Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners calendar are due no later than May 31, 2026.

The theme for the 2027 calendar is Our Duty to Win. Find the full callout for art and essay submissions on the March month page toward the front of the calendar. We especially seek submissions from people in prison or jail, so please forward this call to any prison-based artists and writers. Submit your art &/or essay today!

THE SPIRIT OF RESISTANCE CAN NOT BE JAILED

الحرية لجورج عبد الله

GEORGES ABDALLAH FREE AFTER 4 DECADES



"I WILL NOT REGRET, I WILL NOT
COMPROMISE, AND I WILL KEEP RESISTING."

March 2026

art by Krime

May 2026

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april

Su M T W Th F S

"The most serious defeat we can suffer at the hands of the enemy is to surrender our principles, for then we have stripped the will to fight from our hearts. If there is any rehabilitation program in the minds of our captors, it revolves around capitulation." – former political prisoner Ray Luc Levasseur, 1984 letter to supporters soon after his arrest

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2016 · Standing Rock: Sacred Stone Camp founded, an Indigenous sovereignty & treaty rights movement #NoDAPL

Passover begins

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

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

Good Friday

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Easter Sunday

Easter Monday

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

1999 · 3000 unarmed Zapatistas retake San Andrés from Mexican Army

Last Day of Passover

1993 · Lucasville Uprising/Prison Riot

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

2006 · ON: Millhaven Prison hunger strike & uprising
Holocaust Remembrance Day

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

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

Palestinian Prisoners' Day

1977 · Leonard Peltier convicted of killing 2 FBI agents

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1914 · CO: Ludlow massacre; National Guard attack striking coal miners & families

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

Earth Day

1996 · Manuel 'Tortugueta' Esteben Paez Teran born

1954 · Mumia Abu-Jamal born

26

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2018 · Herman Bell released from prison after 45 years

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

1899 · Wardner, ID: 1000 miners dynamite their mine to protest working conditions

1975 · Saigon surrenders, Vietnam united
2012 · Arrest of Cleveland 4

"In order for me to write poetry that isn't political, I must listen to the birds and in order to hear the birds the warplanes must be silent." – Marwan Makhoul, Palestinian poet and playwright

life will persist

dystopia will burn



April 2026

art by Mica

June 2026

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may

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Su M T W Th F S

"There is a direct line from Nat Turner, Denmark Vesey, all the brothers and sisters who stood up and revolted all the way to Malcolm X, Huey Newton, George Jackson, Ericka Huggins. Past struggles — the most far-reaching victories as well as the most dismal failures — must be living lessons in revolution." — Angela Y. Davis, former political prisoner, abolitionist, writer, author, and educator, in a letter to George Jackson

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May Day

1973 · Shootout on NJ Turnpike leads to arrest of Assata Shakur and murder of Zayd Malik Shakur

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

1981 · IRA PP Bobby Sands dies on hunger strike

Cinco de Mayo

1954 · Vietnam: Battle of Dien Bien Phu ends

1800 · Abolitionist John Brown born

10

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16



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

Mother's Day

1916 · IRA leader James Connolly executed for his role in Easter Rising

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

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

2004 · Poet & activist Gloria Anzaldúa dies

2021 · Ohio 7/UFF member Jaan Laaman released after 37 years

Nakba Day (Palestinian commemoration of the nakba (catastrophe) of 1948)

17

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

Journée nationale des Patriotes (QC) Victoria Day (Canada)

1890 · Ho Chi Minh born
1925 · Malcolm X born

1996 · Abdul Haqq released from prison

1979 · William Guillermo Morales (FALN) escapes custody

24

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2001 · NC: Eddie Hatcher sentenced to life without parole

31



1921 · OK: Tulsa race riot; group of whites violently attack the black community

2020 · Minneapolis, MN: George Floyd killed by police, sparking #BlackLivesMatter protests around world

2022 · Sundiata Acoli released from prison after 49 years

Memorial Day (US)

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

1978 · Kuwasi Balagoon escapes prison for 3 years

Eid-al-Adha

2008 · Indigenous leaders KI6 freed after blocking mining on their land

2020 · Minneapolis police precinct burned in response to police killing of George Floyd

Trans people are like the stars...

We have always been...

...with you...



May 2020

art by Marius Mason

July 2026

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june

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"Palestine is the ultimate litmus test for anybody who claims to want a better, more humane world."
Antony Lowenstein

1

1975 · WA: George Jackson Brigade bombs DOC HQ in support of Walla Walla prisoners
1977 · SD: Leonard Peltier receives 2 life sentences for deaths of 2 FBI agents

2

1863 · Harriet Tubman's Combahee River raid
2011 · Geronimo Ji-Jaga dies of a heart attack in Tanzania

3

4

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

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1997 · L.A.: Geronimo Ji-Jaga released after 27 years in prison

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

2016 · Orlando, FL: 49 killed & 58 wounded at Pulse nightclub, the deadliest incident of violence against LGBT people in US history

1971 · Classified documents on Vietnam (Pentagon papers) released
1983 · Toronto: Police raid Bulldozer prison abolition journal

14

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

1953 · Ethel & Julius Rosenberg executed by the state
Juneteenth

21

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**Father's Day
Summer Solstice
Indigenous Peoples
Day (Canada)**

June Holiday (NL)

2018 · Robert Seth Hayes released from prison after 45 years

**St. Jean Baptiste
Holiday (QC)**

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

1859 · San Quentin: Breakout of Chicano & Indian prisoners; 40 escaped & 10 killed

1975 · Shoot out at Oglala between AIM members and FBI

Ashura

1905 · IWW founded

28

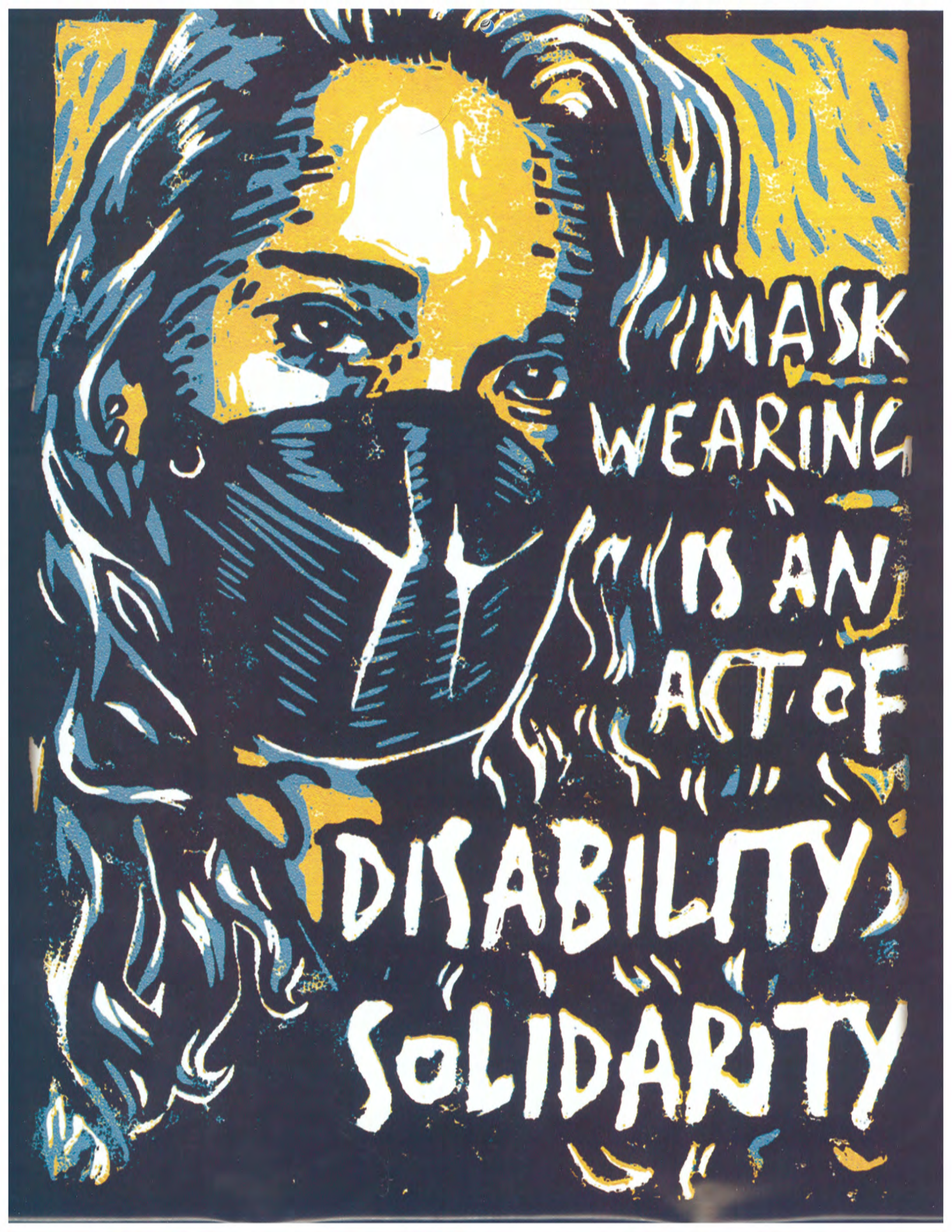
29



30

1969 · NYC: Stonewall resistance
2016 · Antifascist Eric King sentenced to 10 years

"No one who is imprisoned as part of the liberatory and revolutionary left is incarcerated simply because of their alleged or actual deeds. We are all imprisoned due to the state's intent to delegitimize the history of revolutionary struggles and to deter future struggles by condemning us to years of suffering in prison." – Danielle Klette, former Red Army Faction (RAF) member captured in Germany in 2024 and currently facing charges



MASK
WEARING

IS AN
ACT OF

DISABILITY
SOLIDARITY

June 2026

art by Emma Rust

August 2026

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july

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"If you don't act then you condone. If you don't fight then you don't win. And if you don't win then you are responsible for the death and suffering that will go on and on." – Barry Horne, English animal rights activist and former political prisoner who survived a 68-day hunger strike

1

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

Indigenous Day of Mourning (Canada Day)

2

1963 · CA: Soledad prison food strike

3

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Independence Day (US)

5

1934 · "Bloody Thursday" strike

6

7



last quarter

8

9

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

Nunavut Day

10

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

11

1990 · Quebec: 500 police attack Mohawks in Kanehsatake

12

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

13

2019 · Willen Van Spronsen killed by police at NWDC in Tacoma, WA

14



new moon

15

1970 · Young Lords occupy Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx

2010 · Marilyn Buck is paroled

16

1947 · Assata Shakur born

17

18

New Afrikan Freedom Fighter Day

19

1848 · Seneca, NY: Women's rights convention

20

1979 · Leonard Peltier escaped Lompac; captured 3 days later

21



first quarter

22

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

23

24

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1898 · US colonization of Puerto Rico begins

26

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full moon

30

2019 · Tom Manning, of Ohio 7, dies in prison

31

"It's this way: being captured is beside the point, the point is not to surrender."
– Nazim Hikmet



KEEP ON
LOVING,
KEEP ON
FIGHTING

July 2026

art by Dio Cramer

September 2026

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august

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Su M T W Th F S

Eddie Nalon died along in a segregation cell in Millhaven Institution located outside of Kingston, Ontario, Canada (Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek Territory) on August 10, 1974. A year later, Prisoners' Justice Day was first observed by imprisoned people held in the same Canadian federal penitentiary who engaged in a one-day hunger and work

strike in support of their demands to end solitary confinement and other injustices behind bars. Since then, PJD has been marked by people inside and outside prison walls across the world. – Criminalization and Punishment Education Project

1

1979 · Veronza Bowers attempts self-liberation from USP Lompoc

2010 · San Juan: Former Puerto Rican PP Lolita Lebrón dies

2

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2010 · NY: Marilyn Buck dies of cancer
Civic Holiday (Canada except QC, NL)

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

1999 · Laura Whitehorn released

1970 · CA: Jonathan Jackson, William Christmas & James McClain killed during liberation attempt

1977 · NY: Napanoch Prison Rebellion against klan guards

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

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

1970 · Tombs Prison, NY: Prisoners stage rebellion
Prisoners' Justice Day

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

2017 · Charlottesville, VA: Fascist drives car into protestors, injuring 19 and killing Heather Heyer

2015 · CA: Hugo Pinell killed in prison

2015 · ON: Peter Collins dies in prison

16

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1955 · NY: Strike at Comstock prison
Discovery Day (Yukon)

1985 · OH: Prisoners seize supermax unit; air grievances over radio

2003 · Anti-imperialist Kathy Boudin granted parole

1971 · San Quentin, CA: George Jackson assassinated by guards

1831 · Nat Turner slave rebellion begins

1989 · BPP founder Huey Newton killed

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1927 · MA: Anarchists Sacco & Vanzetti executed
Week of Solidarity with Anarchist Prisoners begins

2003 · NY: Black liberation fighter & political prisoner advocate Safiya Bukhari dies at 53

30

31

Week of Solidarity with Anarchist Prisoners ends

Mawlid al-Nabi (Sunnī)

Mawlid al-Nabi (Shī'a)

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



August 2026

art by Caitlin Blunnie

October 2026

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September

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Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
"Wherever you are, whatever sand you can throw on the gears of genocide, do it now. If it's a handful, throw it. If it's a fingernail full, scrape it out and throw. Get in the way however you can." – Rasha Abdulhadi	1	2	3	4	5	last quarter 1877 · Crazy Horse arrested, killed during escape attempt
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Labour Day (Canada/US)		1971 · NY: Attica Prison Rebellion begins		new moon 2001 · NYC: World Trade Center destroyed, Bush's "war on terror" begins 1973 · Chile: U.S. helps overthrow Allende Rosh Hashanah	1977 · South Africa: Steve Biko killed in prison
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1971 · Attica Massacre: police kill prisoners and guards		1973 · CA: Veronza Bowers captured	1982 · Massacre at Sabra & Shatila refugee camps; over 1000 Palestinians murdered Mexican Independence Day		first quarter 1968 · Mexico City: Army invades UNAM university in response to protests	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Yom Kippur	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	2000 · PA: Political prisoner Jihad Abdulmumit released	Native Americans' Day (CA)	full moon 2014 · Iguala Guerrero, Mexico: 43 student-teachers forcibly taken and disappeared
27	28	29	30	"We need to remind ourselves that the thing that brings warmth to our hearts and inspires us to resist is the fire that's burning inside of us, yearning to be free. When we learn to cultivate that personally and as communities, look out, because then we'll be remaking the world into what it should be." – Jeff "Free" Luers, former political prisoner and Earth defender		
1973 · Kuwasi Balagoon escapes prison for 8 months	2000 · Palestine: 2nd Palestinian Intifada begins		National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Canada)			

A vibrant, stylized illustration depicting a group of diverse people of various ages and ethnicities. They are all holding onto a thick, brown chain that runs diagonally across the frame. They are pulling with effort to break through a green barbed wire fence located in the bottom left corner. The background is a bright yellow-green field with dark green shadows cast by the figures. In the center-left, there is red text. An shovel is stuck in the ground near the fence.

WALLS DON'T
HOLD ME

MY PEOPLE
HOLD ME

September 2026

art by Jonas Goonface

November 2026

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October

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Su M T W Th F S

"Once you begin to connect with political prisoners by visiting or raising money, you're going to learn about them. They're going to share stories with you, and you're going to share stories with them. Out of that you're going to find that they're the connection you always needed to fight against the system." – Ashanti Alston, former Black liberation political prisoner, from *Upping the Anti*

1 2 3  last quarter

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

4 5 6 7 8 9 10  new moon

2001 · U.S. begins bombing Afghanistan
2020 · Jalil Muntaqim released from prison after 49 years

Day of the Heroic Guerrilla

1967 · Che Guevara killed in Bolivia

2008 · NYC: Jericho 10th Anniversary National March to UN
Cuban Independence Day

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

Day of Mourning
(Colonial holiday known as Canadian Thanksgiving/ US Columbus Day)
Día de la Raza
(Mexico)

1970 · Angela Davis captured

1979 · DC: 100,000 people at 1st march for lesbian & gay rights
1968 · Presidio Mutiny, military prisoners strike against Vietnam War

1948 · Robert Seth Hayes born
1966 · Oakland, CA: BPP founded
1968 · U.S. federal court prohibits use of whips on prisoners

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

18  first quarter 19 20 21 22 23 24

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

1981 · Nyack, NY: Brinks robbery by BLA & allied anti-imperialists

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

National Day Against Police Brutality (US)

25 26  full moon 27 28 29 30 31

2021 · Russell Maroon Shoatz released from prison after 44 years

1967 · Oakland, CA: Huey Newton arrested

Halloween



October 2026

art by Juan Hernandez

December 2026

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november

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Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1  last quarter 1950 · Puerto Rican activists attempt to assassinate U.S. President Truman Day of the Dead (Mexico) Daylight Savings Time ends	2 1979 · NJ: Assata Shakur liberated from Clinton Women's Prison	3	4 1970 · NY: Rebellion at Auburn prison 2021 · David Gilbert released from prison after 40 years	5 2001 · ALF activist Barry Horne dies on hunger strike	6	7
8 1972 · NJ: Work strike at Clinton Women's Prison Diwali begins	9  new moon	10 1995 · Nigerian Kenule Beeson "Ken" Saro-Wiwa dies	11 1831 · VA: Slave rebel Nat Turner hanged 1887 · IL: Haymarket martyrs hanged Veteran's Day (US)	12	13 1969 · Chicago: BPP member Spurgeon "Jake" Winters murdered by police	14
15	16	17  first quarter 1983 · Mexico: The Zapatista National Liberation Army is born 2020 · Jeremy Hammond released from prison after 10 years	18 1803 · Victory of Haitian revolutionaries in anti-slavery & independence struggle at Vertières	19	20 1969 · Alcatraz: AIM occupation demands return of island to Indigenous peoples 2018 · Mujahid Farid dies	21 1922 · Leavenworth Prison: Ricardo Flores Magon assassinated
22 2011 · Alleged G20 co-conspirators strike plea bargain together that frees 11 while 6 serve jail terms	23	24  full moon	25 International Day Against Violence Against Women	26 Day of Mourning (Colonial holiday known as US Thanksgiving Day)	27	28
29	30 1999 · Seattle, WA: Demonstrations against the WTO	For years, the queer movement has warned against identity politics aimed at symbolic recognition: attempts to classify identities to obtain supposed rights. Today, we are seeing the effects of these politics, which disproportionately impact marginalized trans people in our communities. This situation is alarming and reflects the rise of fascism here in Quebec; not just in the US. The fact that the government is equipping itself with tools to classify and list trans women is an important warning sign that should not be ignored. "Transphobie et incarceration," frontrose.gay				



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december

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Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
Encage the human consciousness to tame the possible rebuttals to the norm. Authority so strikingly the same; oppose authority in any form. — poem submitted by Sofia 'Candle' De Ferrari, anarchist poet philosopher, Coffee Creek Correctional Facility		1 last quarter	2	3	4	5
		1955 · AL: Activist Rosa Parks refuses to give up bus seat, leading to bus boycott World AIDS Day	1859 · Abolitionist John Brown hanged	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	1969 · Chicago: Panthers Fred Hampton & Mark Clark killed by Chicago police Chanukah begins	
6	7	8	9	10 new moon	11	12
1989 · 14 women killed by anti-feminist in the Montreal Massacre 2016 · Maliki Shakur Latine released from prison after 37 years	2005 · Richard Williams, of Ohio 7, dies in prison 2005 · Daniel McGowan & Bill Rodgers arrested		1987 · 1st Palestinian Intifada begins 1981 · Philadelphia: Mumia Abu-Jamal shot & accused of killing a cop	Human Rights Day	1979 · FL: Puerto Rican POW Angel Rodriguez Cristobal assassinated 2012 · Daniel McGowan released	2023 · Eric King released from prison after nearly 10 years Chanukah ends
13	14	15	16	17 first quarter	18	19
1903 · Ella Baker born 1986 · Former Black Liberation Army & New Afrikan anarchist PP Kuwasi Balagoon dies	1972 · Framingham, MA: Women prisoners strike 2016 · Prince Albert, SK: riot involving 185 prisoners leaves one prisoner dead, 8 injured and a large part of the prison uninhabitable	1890 · ND/SD border: Lakota Chief Sitting Bull (Tatanka Iyotaka), killed by US soldiers	1972 · Walpole, MA: State Prison run by prisoners for 4 months 2022 · Dr. Mutulu Shakur released from prison after 35 years			
20	21	22	23	24 full moon	25	26
2011 · G20 protestor Leah Henderson sentenced to 10 months	2005 · Bill Rodgers dies in jail of an apparent suicide 2000 · Huntington Life Sciences dropped from NYSE due to SHAC pressure campaign Winter Solstice		2006 · SF, LA: Former Panther & grand jury resister John Bowman dies	Christmas Day	Boxing Day (Canada/UK) Kwanzaa begins	
27	28	29	30	31 last quarter	"The only way to properly learn is to be in it to win it." — Robert Seth Hayes, former Black liberation political prisoner and founding Certain Days collective member	

Federal Task Force to Combat [Anti-Zionism]

may

Let's get everybody who's been criminalized together and figure out how we can undo this state of affairs.
- Ruth Wilson Gilmore (2012)

At the time of this writing, the US Department of Justice (DOJ) has announced it is launching a "major civil rights investigation" into the University of California, based on claims that it allowed pro-Palestine, antiwar and anti-genocide protests to create an allegedly "hostile antisemitic work environment" on several campuses during the 2023–24 school year. This serves as a high-profile example of the narrative strategy of victim-reversal deployed by defenders of Israeli Zionist settler colonialism: the dubious charge that to oppose "Israel" as it actually exists—a European Jewish settler nation based on land theft, occupation, native population displacement, warfare, and anti-Palestinian genocide—is to be categorically "anti-Semitic." This intellectually and historically dishonest defense mechanism also hinges on the premise that to be against Zionism—the western imperialist ideology that spiritually animates the (white) civilization and nation-building project of "Israel"—is to be an antisemite.

The current DOJ probe of the University of California is part of a larger campaign organized by the Trump-Vance "MAGA" bloc, in lockstep with the far-right Israeli government, to exert political-legal pressure on the administrative, industrial, and financial structure of US universities where strong movements against Israeli apartheid exist or popular support for Palestinian liberation is growing.

Since February, the so-called Federal Task Force to Combat Antisemitism has multiplied its counter-offensive attack on the Palestine solidarity movement. At the same time, the US American-Israeli Zionist settler empire is approaching the 2024 intifada on

the university campuses from the perspective of international geopolitics, domestic counterinsurgency, and modern warfare. Meanwhile, our Palestine solidarity movement still overwhelmingly organizes itself according to liberal-pacifist and reformist terms of engagement. Far from some irrational retributive campaign by the government to punish university institutions where dissent and support for Palestine has become most pronounced, such measures are the expression of a more general urgency from (global) settler empire to realign the material equation of force that last spring was momentarily thrown into crisis by the convergence of anticolonial insurgency on campuses across the country. An equation that was first upended in Palestine on October 7, 2023.

In this context, it becomes apparent how the CUNY8, Leqaa Kordia, and i (among others) are all targets of this peculiar, historically specific wave of ongoing repression. Suspensions and expulsions, visas revoked and detained, two-decade-long prison sentences proposed—we are some of the latest political prisoners and defendants from the Palestine liberation movement in the United States. Some of us can even be called prisoners of war. The attempt to neutralize us is both meant to invoke fear in the present and to wage a preemptive attack against the potential for a revolutionary subversion of the US-Israeli war machine. Toward the fulfillment of our generation's historically necessary task: the abolition of the university of settler empire, of which each of our various legal cases represent a different facet or sector of this most recent cycle of struggle.

Free Palestine!

authOr

Casey Goonan is a dedicated community educator, writer, distroist, and printer who has committed their life to struggles for liberation. A federal investigation by the FBI and several other law enforcement agencies resulted in Casey's arrest for alleged actions in solidarity with the Palestinian liberation struggle. Since June 17, 2024, Casey has been incarcerated at Santa Rita Jail facing federal felonies that could result in up to 20 years of imprisonment. Casey has been involved in prisoner support and abolitionist work for over a decade before their arrest, including anti-prison and anti-police organizing.
freecaseynow.noblogs.org



artist



Mica is an anarchist, organizer, and artist living on Kalapuya land. Their work centers the plants and animals of places that are important to them—from the conifers of the Pacific Northwest to the olive trees of the SWANA region where they have roots. Using digital illustration and printmaking, they hope to make art that kindles fights for liberation. Their piece in this calendar was also shared in the newspaper they illustrate for dissonanttimes.org.

Join The Mississippi Five's Fight For Freedom

june

In January 2022, after almost 35 years in prison, I went before the Mississippi parole board for the fourteenth time. Days later, a friend called and we found out I was denied.

A caseworker told me my file was completely empty. It looked as if I had wasted decades doing nothing. There was no record of the job I held for more than 23 years; none of the letters of support that professors, friends, and family had sent in; or the document promising me a job when I came home.

A month later, I was woken up in the early morning and taken to the state highway patrol to get ID'd. I couldn't believe it; I was going to be released! Then they told me there had been a mistake. They had the wrong number. Finally, that spring, a parole agent searched my son's house in Jackson. He hugged him and told him, "Congratulations son, your mama is getting ready to come home." I'm still in prison, about to turn sixty years old, having spent almost forty of those years inside.

I am one of the Mississippi Five. We are a group of women who are among the last remaining who were sentenced to life with the possibility of parole after ten years, before the state virtually abolished parole in 1995. Collectively, we have spent nearly two hundred years in prison. We have been denied parole fifty times in total. We have been incarcerated over 60 percent of our lives. My son is thirty-nine years old now. I have been with him for only twenty months of his life. Evelyn Smith, another of the Five, is eighty-three years old.

Parole denials are traumatic experiences that are added to the long list of traumas we've already experienced — traumas that led us to prison in the first place. As another of the Five, Lisa Crevitt, put it: "Every time you

go up [for parole] and you get slammed to the ground, it is so hard to get back up."

I can feel the pain of those who suffer from parole denials, having already been denied fourteen times myself. In fact, I hold the record for denials in Mississippi. That's not a record I want anyone else to break, because it might break them—break their mind, their body, their heart, their soul.

I have lived with these people (there are six of us now, after we added Jackie Barnes following her parole denial on Christmas Eve 2024) who are part of this campaign. I have seen their intelligence, resilience, strength, wisdom, and love. They are decent human beings who are worthy of a chance to be free from captivity.

We are not proud of the harm we have caused. We hold ourselves accountable and have taken responsibility for our actions. We have worked hard to educate ourselves and become better people. We have submitted to the ruse and played the games of "rehabilitation" because we want to get out and be with our loved ones. But this so-called rehabilitation is actually torture.

Prisons aren't really about rehabilitation. Prisons are designed for punishment, cruelty, and control. Prisons are meant to torture and traumatize. The Mississippi parole board has been at war with me since 1997. Now, I declare war against the Mississippi parole board.

Anyone who wants to fight with us can join our campaign by visiting studyandstruggle.com/ms5. Please sign the petition, share our stories, and donate if you can. In order to win this war, we have to fight together.

authOr artist



Loretta Pierre is a mixed media artist, writer, student, educator, and prison abolitionist. Even after serving 38 years in prison, she is still a child at heart. Loretta's fifteenth parole hearing is scheduled for December 2025. studyandstruggle.com/ms5



the first trans masculine person to obtain transition-related health care after coming into federal custody, setting a precedent for others coming after him. In 2016, Marius, along with friends in the US and Australia, founded Jan 22: International Day of Solidarity with Trans Prisoners. supportmariusmason.org

Marius Mason is an anarchist, environmental and animal rights activist, and a loving parent, artist, poet, and musician, who is currently serving nearly 22 years in federal prison for acts of property damage carried out in defense of the planet. Marius came out as trans in 2014 and has fought for gender affirming care for himself and other prisoners for the past decade. He was

On Devotion

Have you ever known love so deep, a life without it is unlivable? The fabric of our worlds are woven with love. The lengths that we go to protect this love is instinctual, a self preservation.

We, derived from earth's elements, creatures of the land we live on, are driven to defend our bodies as an abstract state politicizes our existence and attempts to distill all landscapes into battlefields. A struggle between authority and autonomy, state sanctioned violence versus defense of self-sovereignty. As anarchists, we reject their technologies of oppression. As anarchists, we will always reach beyond ourselves moving in concert with others for the great expanses of liberation.

When nefarious actors chose to gather within the academy around a falsehood posed as a question, we chose direct action as means of intervention. While they asked, "Should Transgenderism be regulated by law?" We answered unequivocally with our bodies, fireworks, and homemade smoke cans: "Fascism is not to be debated, it is to be destroyed." Liberalism and the University mask the true genocidal ambitions of the fascist project by providing a "free speech" platform; a rallying space for organizing, recruitment

and legitimization. Our actions in April 2023 were partial but not isolated. We

see our lives as part of community organizing that enjoins militancy and care in an effort to preserve the possibility of communal life. And as the state continues to intensify and expand its violence, reaffirming its colonial ways, the clarity of its mission and that of ours is clear.

Reaching now from behind concrete walls and inside invisible lines of prison society, we extend our open palms to wave—to offer and receive greetings of solidarity. Prosecution, persecution and imprisonment are always a possible hindrance when we devote ourselves to the labor of revolutionary love, but let us not dwell too deeply on temporary confinements. Rather, let us focus on the many horizons before us and what we will do to reach them. Remembering, "It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win. We must love each other and support each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains."

Total solidarity with the interconnected struggles for self-determination and collective defense everywhere.

authOrs



Krystal is an anarchist committed to imaginative living, collective self-defense, and fierce love for those who desire liberation across all lands. She has devoted decades of her life to learning beside elders, youngsters, plantcestors, and all the wise ones seen and unseen. She is currently on probation after being convicted in a federal case alongside her partner, Peppy.

Peppy is an incarcerated anarchist whose commitments are rooted in political education and community self-defense. Over two and a half decades his efforts have contributed to building social centers, creating counter informational media projects, and participating in social rebellions. His work can be found within the histories of It's Going Down, KPFA Radio, Food Not Bombs, Anti-Racist Action, Kolektiva, and SubMedia. He enjoys personal stories, magical realism, poetry, vegan food, calisthenics, Linux, and little animal friends.
freepeppyandkrystal.noblogs.org

july

artist



Emma Rust is a queer, non-binary, mixed race (Korean-English) cartoonist, illustrator,

and zine maker, as well as someone with history in community organizing, mental health, and land work. Through their art, they explore themes of queerness, mixed race identity, community, trauma (personal and political), PIC abolition, anti-imperialism, COVID cautiousness / disability justice, climate preparedness, and radical futures. Their work aims to capture the challenges of navigating the traumas of our world, while demonstrating how our everyday relational actions are sites for greater healing and transformation.
emmarust.work

Abolition: A Long-Term Vision Rooted in Community

august

What if we imagined a world not defined by punishment, but by collective care? That's the core of abolition—not just tearing down harmful systems, but building something better in their place. Abolition is not an overnight demand or a one-time protest; it's a long-term vision that requires all of us to collaborate, to build, and to care deeply for one another.

At its heart, abolition means creating and sustaining equitable opportunities in our communities. It means ensuring that every person—especially those who have been marginalized—has access to housing, education, healthcare, and meaningful work. These are not luxuries. They are the foundation of public safety. When people's basic needs are met, when they feel seen and supported, the conditions that lead to harm begin to fade.

Abolition also calls us to invest in knowledge: to promote and teach evidence-based programs, accurate histories, and resources that empower individuals and families. In many cases, people are trapped in cycles of harm because they were never given the tools to break free. Teaching our younger generation how to think critically and understand

the historical roots of inequality is a powerful step toward change. This is how we equip future leaders—not just to survive, but to transform.

Equally important is mental freedom. Abolition means recognizing the psychological weight that systems of oppression place on individuals and communities. It means providing mental health care that is culturally informed, trauma-sensitive, and accessible to everyone. It means supporting each other emotionally so that we can begin to heal together, and not in isolation.

Abolition is often misunderstood as simply tearing down prisons or dismantling police departments. But it's much more than that. It's about replacing systems that rely on punishment and fear with systems rooted in restoration, accountability, and human dignity. It's about believing that people can change—and creating the conditions that make transformation possible. Each town, city, or state has some form of community initiative working to rebuild relationships and support its youth. Find where help is needed. Then ask yourself where your own skills, lived experience, or professional training can fit in. That's how safe, collaborative communities begin—and how abolition becomes more than an idea. It becomes action.

author



Farhan Ahmed is a writer and advocate who spent 20 years incarcerated in New York State, including 18 months in an immigration detention center. During his time in prison, he transformed his emotional trauma into a sense of purpose, earned GED, and completed a Bachelor's degree in Social Studies. Farhan is currently pursuing a public health fellowship at NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and plans to start a Master's in Public Health at Columbia University soon, a scholarship opportunity offered to him while he was still in prison.

Connect with Farhan: ahmedfarhan1218@gmail.com

artist



Dio Cramer is an artist, organizer, and printmaker currently living in the Mississippi watershed in so-called Minnesota. Their work is focused on placemaking, community building and organizing through the arts, and creating and facilitating art in support of abolition and justice movements. When not drawing, you can find them drinking tea or picking up shiny objects from the ground.

In 1996, a news reporter asked Madeleine Albright (then US Ambassador to the UN and later US Secretary of State) about the "price" of US sanctions on Iraq being the deaths of well over half a million children. Albright's response was, "I think this is a very hard choice, but the price—we think the price is worth it."

Today the US is imposing sanctions that impact 1/3 of humanity in over 40 countries, mainly in the Global South. In just Venezuela alone, the result has been over 100,000 deaths over the past decade. The overall toll for the 40 countries over these many years is staggering, and way higher than the half-million Iraqi children Albright considered "worth it." Yet this lethal economic warfare gets almost no attention in the Global North.

"Sanctions" isn't really the right word, since they are against international law, (except in the 2 cases approved by the UN Security Council). These illegal Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCMs) are so effective because they are not just a matter of trade between the US and the subject nation. The US imposes fines or property seizures on countries and businesses anywhere in the world that deal with the subject country. Few are willing to risk that. And with the US dollar still the main global currency and US domination of world financial institutions, loans can be cut off and assets of the subject country can be frozen. Choking off of trade and finance can be devastating. You can't maintain your power grid when you can't get the fuel to run it; you can't keep up food production if your tractors become useless because you can't replace any broken part; you can't produce needed medications if the precursor materials are blocked, and so on many times over. There is a range of severity and scope. An egregious example is the blatant lie of designating Cuba a State Sponsor of Terrorism, which entails draconian penalties for any business or person worldwide that engages with Cuba.

The US goal is to make the subject nation's "economy scream." That becomes the spearhead for the multifaceted strategy for regime change, "hybrid warfare." A decimated economy breeds dissatisfaction, at the same time US agencies and NGOs fund and train internal opposition, usually promoting violence. The "mismanaged economy" and "repression of opposition" become the indictments in a tsunami of propaganda, including on social media, to discredit the targeted regime.

The US markets its aggression as "humanitarian" and "democracy promotion"—this from imperial power that has installed and/or allied with more brutal dictatorships than ever before in world history. But the real reason is US imperialism's frantic effort to maintain "full spectrum dominance" worldwide. Some countries, like Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua are attacked because they are dangerous examples that breaking from US economic control is the way to reduce poverty and provide universal free medical care and education for their peoples. But even a tyrant like the late Saddam Hussein will be attacked if he gets in the way of US control of a region. We don't have to endorse repressive regimes, but we need to avoid jumping on the State Department's demonization bandwagons. The number one enemy of humankind—the by far greatest destroyer of human life and of nature—is US-led imperialism. We in the Global North have a duty, and moreover it's the only route to our own liberation, to fight US-led imperialism. No to Wars! No to Sanctions!

For more information and what to do see: sanctionskill.org, thetricontinental.org/newsletterissue/us-sanctions-venezuela-chile, and nnoc.org. David would like to thank Vicki Legion for her assistance with this article.

authOr

David Gilbert became active during the Civil Rights Movement in 1960 and later organized against the War on Vietnam. He has been a committed anti-imperialist since the 1960s. In 1981, working in solidarity with the Black Liberation Army, David and others were captured after an effort to take

funds from a Brinks truck went terribly awry. In prison, David was a pioneer in peer education on AIDS. He also wrote three books: *No Surrender: Writings From an Anti-Imperialist Political Prisoner*; *Love and Struggle: My Life in SDS, the Weather Underground, and Beyond*; and *Looking at the U.S. White Working Class Historically*. David was granted clemency by Governor Cuomo in August of 2021, and granted parole in November of that year.



artist



Caitlin Blunnie, also known as Liberal Jane, is a queer reproductive justice artist and activist living in Baltimore. Caitlin brings a decade of experience working in the feminist movement. In Washington, D.C., Caitlin organized and fought for reproductive rights, healthcare, queer

liberation and more. As an activist, she started Liberal Jane as a way to continue the fight for equality online. Over the last eight years, Liberal Jane has become a trusted voice in the online feminist space. She is known for her educational content, bold messaging and wildly colorful graphics and aesthetic. liberaljane.com

We Make Our Own Justice: Global Alternatives to Policing and Prisons

(Excerpt from book, forthcoming from Pluto Press, September 2026)

October

Communities and groups resolving conflicts and harms themselves, without looking to the state or judiciary, is not new. But the scale to which this is currently occurring is. There are numerous locations around the world where alternative and parallel forms of justice, healing, policing, peacekeeping, and adjudication are taking place. The seeds of these possibilities were planted and nurtured over time. The early processes of the EZLN resulted in the Zapatistas in Mexico or the Kurdish Freedom Movement, resulting in autonomous regions with fully developed systems of justice—as in Bakur (Northern Kurdistan / Southeastern Turkey) and Rojava. Stories and tools are lived examples, reflecting how we can, and are, transforming our neighbourhoods, groups, and communities. How we are practicing abolition now. The stories teach us to be patient, and learn to walk slowly, as the Zapatistas remind us, because we are going far. Each step is important.

We Make Our Own Justice is a reflection of the world we want to create, and one we are recreating, based in growing and deepening community, healing from harm rather than being left to deal with it individually, holding each other accountable in ways that deepen community with gender and gender related harms at the centre Learning together – not apart.

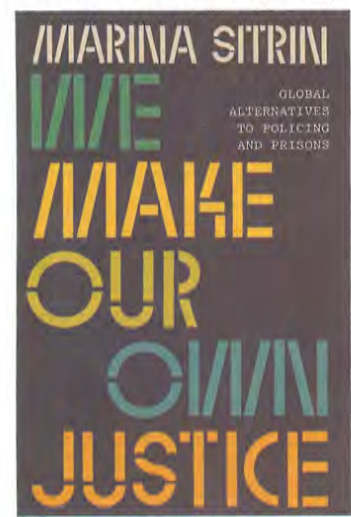
Selections from a conversation with Awat, a participant in the parallel justice mechanism of the Kurdish Freedom Movement in Bakur, Northern Kurdistan (Southeast Turkey). The processes she describes have been evolving and practiced for many hundreds of years, with a focus on women for dozens of years. The system of justice is deeply rooted in building community and thinking as a collective rather than

individual. The processes move to support the person harmed as well as the one who committed the harm though more community support—rather than alienating or ostracizing the person.

“There is usually like a specific committee for this, with two spokespeople who organize the committee. For the movement, there is a rotation system in the committees and with different roles, and in the committee related to disputes, since it is about trust and building relationships over time, people rotate less frequently. People in the committee need to know the region, culture, tradition, socioeconomic background of that neighborhood or region, and it takes time. And people also learn to have more respect for them because they know they've helped resolve other conflicts or situations. And for accessibility too. These are members you need to connect to them and access them easily. Also, there is a developing and deepening skill, with people who are good at communication, who are good at convincing people, and there is no like formal training for that, they learn from each other, or new members of the committee are learning through experiences, being part of this committee, observing, and it takes time to have those people. That's why I think the movement doesn't prefer to change members of this committee very often.

We don't call them mediators, they are movement members who are responsible for resolving disputes and building public relations because it is not just resolving disputes it is also building connection with people, among people, to have a better communal life. It is more than the role of resolving a dispute and having a mediator—it is about a communal life—community.

authOr



Marina Sitrin is an associate professor of Sociology at Binghamton University, New York. She is the co-editor, with Colectiva Sembrar, of *Pandemic Solidarity: Mutual Aid During the COVID 19 Crisis* and is author of *Horizontalism: Voices of Popular Power in Argentina*, *Everyday Revolutions: Horizontalism and Autonomy in Argentina* and the co-author of *They Can't Represent Us!: Reinventing Democracy from Greece to Occupy*.

artist



Jonas Goonface is an anarchist making it work in Minnesota. He likes free refills, breaking stuff, porn, and campfires. Instagram: @jonasgoonface

Mountain

Eye feel like a dead pine tree...

All the lower limbs scorched and burnt unrecognizable under the decay, My mind is a nest made of mud. A lone red-wing blackbird watching the sun rise and fall. The earth is dying and we are killing it with pollution.

Towns, roads, and camps named after tribes. Tribes decimated and tortured by this Colonial Wreck. Capture the flame of resistance while you can and stand with mother earth. Sleeping on soil totally turned over by a blazing inferno I dream of freedom. Worked until feet bleed and boot insoles melt. The rich get richer and the poor are captured for defending their communities. Forced to work for pennies days at a time. My life is a rootball, dug up and smacked with a microscope, studied and examined like a caged animal. Things I've seen, people I've connected with remain locked in a time capsule shaped like a pinecone. The stench of gas seeps through my nostrils covered in an orange bandana, my health's only "Protector." Listening to the fire rip through nature is like listening to a voice in my head giving me advice.

"We are all needed with our families,"

authOr



Jesse "T.C." Cannon is a hip-hop artist, writer, and photographer who goes by "Tall Can" or "T.C." He is a community activist, anarchist, park defender, and archivist for the 2023 Chicano Park Mural Restoration Project. In August 2025, Jesse was released after serving 21 months of a five-year sentence for defending his community against fascists and racists. While incarcerated, T.C. became a wildland firefighter on an inmate hand crew, battling flames in the Palisades Fire of 2025. T.C.'s poem was written while fighting fires and serving many communities on an inmate hand crew.

Find his music at
TallShadow.bandcamp.com
TallCan.bandcamp.com

no vember

The voice says calmly.

The most sacred thing in life is Family, nothing else matters, I see that now.

This country, its laws, its borders

Separate Families everyday.

My fingers dig deep beneath the dirt, scorpions dance around over my veins and teach me stories, lessons on how to be strong. Don't let this system kill your spirit, your medicine. My protection flies overhead in the physical form of crows and ravens. Keeping my soul safe even if my mind has been abused and tortured.

Eye feel like a mountain...

Reaching for the Sky grounded in the earth trekking towards freedom watching time swallow clouds and lunar cycles dance with the revolutionary change. I let sleep take my mind and dream of times with my family, growing wise and stronger. Watching leaves fall and regrow. My body is here but my heart and mind are with my little wolf. My sun...

artist



Juan Hernandez is an incarcerated artist born and raised in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. He was incarcerated at the age of 16 and given a juvenile de facto life sentence. A quarter century later he still resides in a prison cell, which he has turned into an art studio, and yields art that is a reflection of his escape from the walls it was created in. His art has been exhibited at Angelica Kauffman Gallery, Art in Odd Places NYC, and the Design Museum of Chicago, amongst others. His writing has appeared in publications such as Prison Journalism Project and Teen Vogue, and he has received support from the Puffin Foundation and the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture. Find him online on instagram: [@jch_convictedart](https://www.instagram.com/jch_convictedart)

An Abolitionist's Prayer

Some mornings
before dawn
I imagine him,
rising alone,
not having slept much
and walking outside The Kennedy Farmhouse.

Perhaps he went
to one of the ponds,
watched the sunrise,
or just gazed South
towards his target.

Then he kneels,
scoops some loam,
and rubs it in his scarred
and weathered palms,
inhales deeply,
and whispers a prayer.

I sense him validated
by the earth,
while surrounded
by a society

deceember

that wants him
dead.

I want to know the
prayer that John Brown
prayed on the morning
he left to raid
Harpers Ferry.

Beyond that desire,
deeper in my gut,
like an echo,
Is a craving.

May we be the answer
to that prayer.

artist



Jess X. Snow (b. 1992) is a filmmaker, multi-disciplinary artist and author born in Canada, of JiangXi Chinese heritage. Through an immersive, surrealist and emotionally-driven lens, they bring their background in murals, visual art and poetry into their storytelling that monumentalizes the healing journeys of flawed Asian migrants. Recently named one of Filmmaker Magazine's 25 New Faces of Independent Film, their short films across genres have screened at festivals around the world. A member of the Justseeds Artist Cooperative, over the last decade they created dozens of community murals that unveil the emotional landscapes of our social movements.

Cover art by **Julie Goonan**, an artist, illustrator, professor, and mother of **Casey Gordon**. Casey is currently in jail facing federal charges for alleged actions in solidarity with the Palestinian Liberation struggle. Write to Casey. Write to all prisoners. #FreeThemAll #FreePalestine freecaseynow.noblogs.org



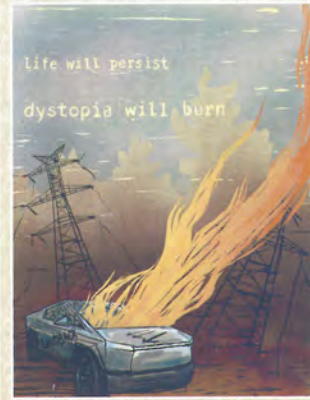
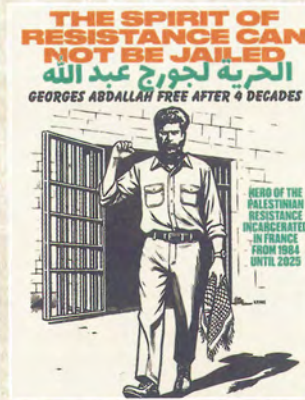
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B is an anarchist living with his wonderful partner in Oregon. He is a facilitator, community mediator, transformative justice practitioner, a gardener, and a novice herbalist.



Buy a calendar. Send a calendar to a prisoner. Fundraise with the calendar. Submit your art and writings on abolition. certaindays.org



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I'm a postcard;
 cut me out!

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