NYC Anarchist Black Cross

U.S. Political Prisoner and Prisoner of War Listing

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ALL CONTENT IN THIS EDITION IS UP-TO-DATE TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE AS OF AUGUST 25, 2026.

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BLACK/NEW AFRIKAN LIBERATION

Mumia Abu-Jamal

Smart Communications/PA DOC
Mumia Abu-Jamal #AM8335
SCI Mahanoy
Post Office Box 33028
St Petersburg, Florida 33733

Birthday: April 24

Mumia is an award winning journalist and was one of the founders of the Black Panther Party chapter in Philadelphia. He has struggled for justice and human rights for people of color since he was at least 14 years old ~ the age when he joined the Party. In December of 1982, Mumia, who moonlighted by driving a taxi, happened upon police who were beating his brother. During the melee, a police officer was shot and killed. Despite the fact that many people saw someone else shoot and then run away from the scene, Mumia was convicted and sentenced to death by what can only be called a kangaroo court. During the summer of 1995, a death warrant was signed, which sparked one of the most effective organizing efforts in defense of a political prisoner ever. Since that time, Mumia has had his death sentence overturned, but still has a life sentence with no opportunity for parole. More information: ***freemumia.com***

Joe-Joe Bowen

Smart Communications/PA DOC
Joseph Bowen #AM4272
SCI Fayette
Post Office Box 33028
St Petersburg, Florida 33733

Birthday: January 15

Joseph "Joe-Joe" Bowen is one of the many all-but-forgotten frontline soldiers in the liberation struggle. A native of Philadelphia, Joe-Joe was a young member of the "30th and Norris" street gang before his incarceration politicized him. Released in 1971, his outside activism was cut short a week following his release when Joe-Joe was confronted by an officer of the notoriously brutal Philadelphia police department. The police officer was killed in the confrontation, and Bowen fled. After his capture and incarceration, Bowen became a Black Liberation Army combatant, defiant to authorities at every turn. In 1973, Joe-Joe and Philadelphia Five prisoner Fred "Muhammad" Burton assassinated Holmesberg prison's warden and deputy warden as well as wounded the guard commander in retaliation for intense repression against Muslim prisoners in the facility.

In 1981, Bowen led a six-day standoff with authorities when he and six other captives took 39 hostages at Graterford Prison as a freedom attempt and protest of the prison conditions. Much of his time in prison has been spent in and out of control units, solitary confinement, and other means of isolating Joe-Joe from the general prison population. He is legendary to many prisoners as a revolutionary. "I used to teach the brothers how to turn their rage into energy and understand their situations," Bowen told the Philadelphia Inquirer in 1981. "I don't threaten anybody. I don't talk to pigs. I don't drink anything I can't see through and I don't eat anything off a tray. When the time comes, I'll be ready."

Muhammad Burton

Smart Communications/PA DOC
Fred Burton AF3896
SCI Chester
Post Office Box 33028
St Petersburg, Florida 33733

Birthday: December 15

Frederick Burton is an innocent man who has diligently attempted to prove his innocence to the courts for 47 years. Prior to his inprisonment, Fred worked for a phone company, was a well respected member of his community and his wife was preparing to have twins. In 1970, Fred was accused and then convicted of participating in the planning of the murder of Philadelphia police officers. While the alleged plan was to blow up a police station, instead a police officer was shot and killed by alleged members of a radical group called "the Revolutionaries."

Ronald Reed

Ronald Reed #219531
Minnesota Correctional Facility - Lino Lakes
Post Office Box 247
Phoenix, Maryland 21131

Birthday: August 31

Ronald Reed, a former member of the Black United Front, was convicted of the 1970 shooting of a St. Paul police officer. Twenty-five years after the killing, Reed was arrested and convicted of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first degree-murder. He is serving Life in prison. Reed is a former 60s civil rights activist. In 1969, Reed was also among the students at St. Paul Central High School who demanded black history courses and organized actions against racist teachers. He was also instrumental in helping to integrate college campuses in Minnesota. During this period, Reed began to look toward revolutionary theory and began to engage in political street theater with other young black revolutionaries in the city of St. Paul. More information: ***http://bit.do/RonaldReed***

Kojo Bomani Sababu

Grailing Brown #39384-066
USP Canaan
Post Office Box 300
Waymart, Pennsylvania 18472

Birthday: May 27

Kojo Bomani Sababu is a New Afrikan Prisoner of War serving a 55 year sentence. Kojo was captured on December 19th, 1975 during a bank expropriation. He was subsequently charged with conspiracy for an alleged plan to use rockets, hand grenades and a helicopter in an attempt to free Puerto Rican Prisoner of War Oscar Lopez Rivera from the federal prison where he was serving a 55-year sentence for a 1981 conviction of seditious conspiracy.

Kamau Sadiki

Freddie Hilton #0001150688
Augusta State Medical Prison
3001 Gordon Highway
Grovetown, Georgia 30813

Birthday: February 19

Kamau Sadiki is a former member of the Black Panther Party and was convicted of a 30-year old murder case of a Fulton County cop found shot to death in his car outside a service station. The police and government told Kamau that if he worked with them and got Assata Shakur to leave Cuba and go to some other country where they could apprehend her that they would not prosecute on the police killing. Kamau refused to cooperate. More information: ***freekamau.com***

Bill Dunne

Bill Dunne #10916-086
FCI Butner Medium II
Post Office Box 1500
Butner, North Carolina 27509

Birthday: August 3

Bill Dunne is an anarchist political prisoner who was sentenced to 90 years in 1979 for the attempted liberation of comrades from Seattle's King County Jail in downtown Seattle, Washington. During the escape a shootout occurred and eventually Bill and two of his comrades were arrested. In 1983 Bill tried to escape from USP Lewisburg and for that was sentenced to an additional 15 years, 7.5 years of imprisoned in the notorious control units at USP Marion. Bill had his first parole hearing in 2014, which was denied. The parole board's reasoning was due to the fact that Bill still maintains communication with anarchist groups and individuals. Not only has Bill been in solidarity with the anarchist movement and the individuals and groups that take part in it, but also Black liberation movements and indigenous resistance movements. Through the years Bill has also taught GED classes at almost every prison at which he has found himself, helping many prisoners get their GED.

Casey Goonan

Casey Goonan #24611-511
FCI Allenwood Medium
Post Office Box 2000
White Deer, Pennsylvania 17887

Birthday: April 25

Casey Goonan is an anarchist/anti-imperialist political prisoner incarcerated for actions carried out in solidarity with Palestinians facing genocide in Gaza and response to the repressive actions against the pro-Palestine student encampments in the United States.

In January 2025, Casey pleaded guilty to one count of maliciously damaging or destroying property used in or affecting interstate commerce by means of fire or an explosive for the arson attack on a campus police car. As part of a plea agreement, Goonan took responsibility for the other attacks but pleaded not guilty to the additional charges and was sentenced to 235 months in federal prison. More information: ***freecaseynow.noblogs.org***

Malik Muhammad

Malik Muhammed #400523
Marion 183
Broad River Correctional Institution
4460 Broad River Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Birthday: February 13

Malik is a Black/Palestinian pansexual muslim, anarchist, antifascist, and anti-racist abolitionist. They were charged with possession of unregistered destructive devices, engaging in civil disorder and obstructing law enforcement and using explosives to commit a felony during the George Floyd uprisings. They have a young child and have a long history of protesting and associated actions for Black liberation. More info: ***malikspeaks.noblogs.org***

Hridindu Roychowdhury

Hridindu Roychowdhury #51111-510
FCI Thomson
Post Office Box 1002
Thomson, Illinois 61285

Birthday: February 24

Hridindu Roychowdhury–an anarchist and PhD student, is a vocal advocate for bodily autonomy, currently imprisoned for standing up against systems of oppression.

In the wake of the leaked supreme court decision to overturn Roe V. Wade, anger and grief spilled into the streets across the country. For some, it was a moment of protest. For others, it became a flashpoint that led to incarceration. In May, 2022, Hridindu acted in protest against Wisconsin Family Action, an anti-abortion lobbying group, whose building was damaged in an attempted arson. Every precaution was taken to insure no one was injured and the words spray-painted on the wall read, "IF ABORTIONS AREN'T SAFE, THEN YOU AREN'T EITHER."

The state responded with surveillance, collecting DNA from a discarded burrito, and eventual federal charges. In a non-cooperating plea agreement, Hridundu pled guilty and took responsibility for his actions, and was sentenced to 90 months.

INDIGENOUS RESISTANCE

Oso Blanco

Byron Chubbuck #07909-051
USP Atwater
Post Office box 019001
Atwater, California 95301

Birthday: February 26

Indigenous rights activist serving 55 years for bank robbery, aggravated assault on the FBI, escape and firearms charges. Oso Blanco is a wolf clan Cherokee/ Choctaw raised in New Mexico, whose Cherokee name is Yona Unega. He became known by the authorities as "Robin the Hood" after the FBI and local gang unit APD officers learned from a confidential informant that he was robbing banks in order to acquire funds to support the Zapatista rebellion in Chiapas, Mexico throughout 1998-99. Info at: ***freeosoblanco.blogspot.com***

OTHER NATIONAL LIBERATION

Xinachtli

Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Alvaro Hernández #255735
Post Office Box 660400
Dallas, Texas 75266-0400

Birthday: May 12

Xinachtli (Nahuatl, meaning "seed") is a community organizer from Texas. Police informants were used to monitor Xinachtli's organizing activities in the barrio. They were told Xinachtli was "typing legal papers," "had many books" and was working on police brutality cases in Alpine.

The police knew of Xinachtli's history of community-based organizing and his legal skills. Xinachtli was recognized nationally and internationally as the national coordinator of the Ricardo Aldape Guerra Defense Committee, which led the struggle to free Mexican national Aldape Guerra from Texas' death row after being framed by Houston police for allegedly killing a cop. Xinachtli's human rights work was recognized in Italy, France, Spain, Switzerland, Mexico and other countries. He was sentenced in Odessa, Texas on June 2-9, 1997 to 50 years in prison for defending himself by disarming a police officer drawing a weapon on him. The trial evidence clearly showed Xinachtli was the victim of witch hunts and a police-orchestrated conspiracy to frame or eliminate him. More information: ***freealvaro.net***

ANTI-POLICE

Andrew Mickel

Andrew Mickel V77400
California Institution for Men
Post Office Box 368
Chino, California 91708

Birthday: March 13

On November 19, 2002, Andy Mickel shot and killed a cop from Red Bluff, California. There were no witnesses to the killing, and the crime would have gone unsolved had there not been Internet postings about the crime six days later. The postings read, "Hello Everyone, my name's Andy. I killed a Police Officer in Red Bluff, California in a motion to bring attention to, and halt, the police-state tactics that have come to be used throughout our country." In April 2005, Mickel was convicted of one count of first-degree murder. He was subsequently sentenced to death, and is being held on Death Row at San Quentin State Prison.

Joy Powell

Joy Powell #07-G-0632
Bedford Hills Correctional Facility
Post Office Box 1000
Bedford Hills, New York 10507-2499

Birthday: March 5

Joy Powell was warned by the Rochester Police department that she was a target because of her speaking out against corruption. An all white jury tried her; the state provided no evidence and no eyewitnesses. Joy was not allowed to discuss her activism or say that she was a pastor. Furthermore, Judge Francis Affronti promised he was going to give her a harsh sentence because he did not like her. She was convicted and given 16 years and seven years concurrent. More information: ***freejoypowell.org***

ANTI-RACIST/ANTIFA

Alexander Contompasis

Alexander Contompasis 22-B-5028
Sing Sing Correctional Facility
354 Hunter Street
Ossining, New York 10562

Birthday: February 26

On January 6, 2021, right-wing agitators gathered outside the New York State Capitol in support of the Stop the Steal rally in Washington DC. A handful of counter protesters spoke out against them and a melee broke out after a Proud Boy tased a Black man in the neck. Alex Stokes was watching from the sidelines and ran to help others. Police did not intervene until the violence had ended, arresting three Black activists. Alex was charged with several felonies. The Proud Boys were not arrested at the scene.

Alex's family and friends maintain that he was railroaded by the system. He was a journalist under a court-ordered gag-order for over a year. His previous work and experience with dangerous hate groups were inadmissible for his defense, but the prosecution picked apart his social media accounts and portrayed his actions as premeditated. He was found guilty on all charges and sentenced to 20 years in prison, despite the fact that no one died and neither of the victims received life-altering injuries. More Information: ***freealexstokes.com***

VIRGIN ISLAND 3

The “Virgin Island 3” are a group of activists accused of murdering eight people in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The murders took place during a turbulent period of rebellion on the Islands. During the 1970’s, as with much of the world, a movement to resist colonial rule began to grow in the U.S. occupied Virgin Islands. From 1971 to 1973, there was a small scale Mau Mau rebellion taking place on the islands. This activity was down-played by the media, for fear it would damage the tourist industry, which the island’s survival depends on. More information: ***vi3.org***

Abdul Azeez

Birthday: January 9

Warren Ballentine #19-1878
Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility
19351 US Highway 49 North
Tutwiler, Mississippi 38963

Hanif Shabazz Bey

Birthday: August 16

Beaumont Gereau #19-1952
Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility
19351 US Highway 49 North
Tutwiler, Mississippi 38963

Malik Smith

Birthday: October 8

Meral Smith #19-1874
Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility
19351 US Highway 49 North
Tutwiler, Mississippi 38963

NEW YORK CITY ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS (NYC ABC)

NYC ABC is a collective focused on supporting US-held political prisoners and prisoners of war and opposing state repression against revolutionary social justice movements. We are a Support Group of the Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF).

What is the federation/What are Political Prisoners & Prisoners of War (PP/POWs):

In May of 1995, a small group of ABC collectives merged into a federation whose aim was to focus on the overall support and defense of PP/POWs.

Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War are not in prison for committing social "crimes," nor are they criminals in the common usage of the word. Different PP/POWs participated in progressive and revolutionary movements at varying levels. Some in educational and community organizing, others in clandestine armed and offensive people's armies. All are in prison as a result of conscious political action, for building resistance; building and leading movements and revolution...for making change. Many of us in some way or another are part of these very movements, part of that resistance that PP/POWs helped to build. As people continuing to struggle for change, we are obligated and it is our duty to support those people who are in prison as a result of those struggles.

Why only political prisoners?

Though we are abolitionists and believe that prison is inherently political, with limited time and resources, we choose to focus on those from movements with whom we share affinity.

How to get involved:

If you're in the NYC area, come to one of our events! We host letter-writings several times throughout the year (upcoming events are generally posted on our website and Instagram, or you can email us to join our announcement list). We also host or co-host several other special events, including the annual Running Down the Walls, which takes place in Prospect Park and held to raise funds for the ABCF's Warchest Program. At RDTW and letter writings, there is typically a food component, vegan by design–as the absolute minimum we can do to show our resistance against all oppression, including of non-human animals.

Whether or not you live in the area, we encourage you to become an ABCF Warchest contributor. One can do so via mail or paypal (paypal.me/abcfwarchest) at a level of $5, $10, or $20 per month or on an ad hoc basis. Contact us for more information about this program and how to contribute.

For those outside of NYC, we also are available to answer questions and generally support people in starting a prisoner support organization or ABC chapter in your area.

Find out more:

website: ***nycabc.wordpress.com***

email: ***nycabc@riseup.net***

socials: ***@nycabc***

WRITE A LETTER

Writing a letter to a political prisoner or prisoner of war is a concrete way to support those imprisoned for their political struggles.

A letter is a simple way to brighten someone's day in prison by creating human interaction and communication—something prisons attempt to destroy. Beyond that, writing keeps prisoners connected to the communities and movements of which they are a part, allowing them to provide insights and stay up to date.

Writing to prisoners is not charity, as we on the outside have as much to gain from these relationships as the prisoners. Knowing the importance of letter writing is crucial. Prisons are very lonely, isolating, and disconnected places. Any sort of bridge from the outside world is greatly appreciated.

With that in mind, avoid feeling intimidated, especially about writing to someone you do not know. And if possible try and be a consistent pen pal.

What to Write

For many, the first line of the first letter is difficult to write—there is uncertainty and intimidation that come with it. Never fret, it's just a letter.

For the first letter, it's best to offer an introduction, how you heard about the prisoner, a little about yourself. Tell stories, write about anything you are passionate about--movement work and community work are great topics until you have a sense of the prisoner's interests outside of political organizing.

And what we hear from prisoners time and time again is to include detail. Prison is so total that the details of life on the outside become distant memories. Smells, textures, sounds of the street all get grayed out behind bars. That's not to say that you should pen a stream-of-consciousness novel.

For things you should and should not remember when writing to folks, read "Guidelines."

Guidelines

You cannot enclose glitter or write with glittery gel pens or puff paint pens. Some prisons do not allow cards or letters that include permanent marker, crayon, or colored pencils and it is best to check with the prisoner beforehand. That said, it is usually best to write in standard pencil or non-gel pen in blue or black ink.

You cannot include articles or anything else torn out of a newspaper or magazine. However, you can print that same article from the internet or photocopy it and write your letter on the other side.

You cannot include polaroid pictures (though these days, that's not much of an issue), but you can include regular photographs. Some prisoners are limited to the number of photos they can have at any given time, so again, check with the prisoner before sending a stack of photos.

If mailing more than a letter, clearly write the contents of the envelope/package. Label it "CONTENTS" and include a full list.

A couple of technical details—make sure you include your return address inside the letter as well as on the envelope. It's common for prisoners to receive letters without the envelope. Make sure to paginate—number each page, such as 1 of 3, 2 of 3, et cetera. This insures that if pages of your letter don't make it to the prisoner, they will know it.

Be careful about making promises and only commit to what you are certain you can do. This should go without saying, but it's not a good idea to make commitments to someone you don't have a relationship with. If you can't maintain a correspondence, let them know up front. Conversely, if you want to maintain an ongoing correspondence, let them know that as well.

If you are writing to someone who is pre-trial, don't ask questions about their case. Discussing what a prisoner is alleged to have done can easily come back to haunt them during their trial or negotiations leading up to it.

Don't valorize the person you are writing. Keep in mind that these are folks coming from the same movements and communities that you are. They aren't looking for adoration, but rather to maintain correspondence.

Finally, do not write anything you wouldn't want Fox News, a cop, or a judge to see. Assume that intelligence and law enforcement agencies are reading your letter. On a related note, this advice goes for any snail mail, e-mail, texting, messaging, or talking that takes place in known activist spaces or homes. This is not legal advice, just basic movement survival common sense (to review, read "Staying Safe").

STAYING SAFE

You never have to, and it is never a good idea to talk to police, FBI, ICE, or any other law enforcement agent or investigator. Other than providing your name and address to a police officer who is investigating a crime, you never have to talk. You will not outsmart them by talking or sound less suspicious by talking or make things easier for yourself by talking. Anything you say will be used against you and others. If they catch you in a lie or inconsistency they can charge you with a separate crime.

Say: I have nothing to say to you OR I need a lawyer present to continue this conversation. If they come to your home, workplace, or school, ask them for a business card and tell them your attorney will be in contact with them.

The FBI may threaten you with a grand-jury subpoena for not talking. It doesn't matter because they were probably going to subpoena you anyway and you weren't going to talk anyway. If you receive a grand jury subpoena you should immediately contact a lawyer and let others in your community know. People can be held for up to six months for refusing to talk to grand juries. Even so, for our own survival, it is imperative that we take that risk and do not participate in grand juries as they are used to indict political prisoners and prisoners of war.

In the federal legal system, the grand jury is used to decide whether someone should be charged ("indicted") for a serious crime. The grand jury hears evidence presented by the prosecutor: the U.S. Attorney. The grand jury uses subpoenas to gather this evidence. It can subpoena documents, physical

evidence, and witnesses to testify. The "special" federal grand jury, created in 1970, can be used to investigate "possible" organized criminal activity rather than a specific crime.

Recently, there have been more than one active grand jury in new york city. There are also more than likely informants and agent provocateurs infiltrating the anarchist community here.

It is imperative that we continue our work as anarchists including the support of political prisoners and prisoners of war towards the abolition of the state, of capitalism, and of all oppression. It is also imperative that we do so in a way that is smart, strategic, and sustainable.

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