“Starting in May 2020 the U.S. was shaken by protests, uprisings, and riots following the police murder of George Floyd. Almost immediately the government moved in to repress those taking the streets against the police and racial violence. More than 350 people were arrested on federal charges while city and state level arrests topped 14,000 between May 28th and Nov 3rd. Some cities and regions already had established organizations and crews to help with both jail support and long-term prisoner support during and after the Uprising; in other places new groups formed as the need arose; yet other places still have little or no infrastructure to support the massive number of arrestees.

uprisingsupport.org

The uprising was the continuation of a battle against the combined powers of the state and white supremacy that has been raging for decades; centuries. That fight does not end when the protests die down or the riots are quelled. It overlaps with other moments of rupture and with the care that we show for each other in the aftermath of repression and the build up towards the next moment. The struggle continues. And for that reason, we do not want those captured by the state to be isolated through their imprisonment and left out of that continuing struggle. We want to facilitate their connections with people, movements, and communities on the outside; this website is one piece of that effort.”

SUPPORT DEFENDANTS & PRISONERS

FROM THE GEORGE FLOYD UPRISINGS

Cover image: no Bonzo
www.nobonzo.com/work/illustration

uprisingsupport.org

updated monthly (god-willing)

with whatever weapons at hand

withwhateverweapons.noblogs.org

Further Resources

Organizations Doing Support Work for Uprising Prisoners

Minnesota Uprising Arrestee Support
Puget Sound Prisoner Support
Tucson Anti Repression Crew
Atlanta Solidarity Fund
Michigan Solidarity Bail Fund
Anti Repression PDX
Anarchist Black Cross Federation
Final Straw Radio
In Contempt
Certain Days Calendar
True Leap Press
Dreaming Freedom, Practicing Abolition
Mongoose Distro
In the Belly Zine

- A lot of people seem wary of telling prisoners about “fun“ stuff, thinking it will depress them or make them feel homesick hearing about people having a laugh on the outside. This is rubbish! They’ll already be homesick and it’s just reassuring to hear normal life is going on so don’t feel coy about mentioning shows, parties and raucous nights down the boozer.
- Always ask a few questions like how they’re doing, plans they have for the future, what their interests are, etc. but try to keep it general and don’t make it sound like you’re being nosey. Bearing in mind that they might be replying to a total stranger, it makes writing a response a lot easier.
- Similarly, some background about yourself, even seemingly trivial things like favorite bands, football teams etc, can make writing a reply that bit easier...
- Don’t EVER promise things you can’t deliver. If you build someone’s hopes up about say visiting them, sending things into them, etc then you let them down, that’s well out of order and hardly consistent with supporting them.
- Avoid turgid lefty-isms! Phrases like “my comrades and I have resolved to pass a motion of solidarity” sound pompous and impersonal however well-meaning they might be. “We hope you’re doing ok” is a lot more friendly!
- Political literature – be careful! Unless the prisoner asks for it, avoid sending any overly contentious political material in as it can potentially cause them grief. There’s no problem sending this kind of thing as long as you ask the prisoner first and always respect their wishes.
- Introduce yourself - tell them your name, location, how you found out about them, and, if it’s relevant, what group you’re affiliated with.
- Be upfront about how often you’ll be able to write. It’s fine if you’re only intending to send a single letter of support, just be clear so you don’t set up an expectation of writing regularly if you can’t realistically commit to that.

Recent Updates

David Elmakayes was transferred to USP Big Sandy.

Mujera Benjamin Lunga’ho released from federal prison in April 2026. Visit uprisingsupport.org for post-release support needs.

Christopher Tindal was transferred to USP Canaan.

Malik Muhammad was transferred to South Carolina after intense repression inside. Visit malikspeaks.noblogs.org for more information about supporting them.

Margaret Channon released to a halfway house in February 2026, visit uprisingsupport.org for ways to support Margaret post-release!

José Felan released to a halfway house in December 2025 and has a fundraiser for post-release support here: www.givesendgo.com/freejosenow! Updates from him can be read at @freejosefelan.

You can listen to this recent episode of *Outlaw Podcast:* “After the Uprising: Reflections from Minneapolis on Solidarity with Political Prisoners Montez Lee & José Felan” *sites.libsyn.com/572680/after-the-uprising-reflections-from-minneapolis-on-solidarity-with-political-prisoners-montez-lee-jos-felan*

Tyre Means released from prison to Seattle with nothing & is organizing a fundraiser for much needed support! *www.gofundme.com/f/help-tyre-means-rebuild-after-incarceration*

Christopher Tindal

Christopher was originally arrested in May of 2020 in connection with an arson of a police car during a protest in Rochester, NY. Eventually Christopher was able to plead to a Riot charge, which carried a lesser sentence of 5 years.

Christopher is 30 years old and was born and raised in Rochester, NY. He is a father and hopes to return to school after he is released. In his own words..."What led up to me protesting George Floyd's murder in 2020 was that all my life I've had run-ins with the police. I know what it's like to be pinned under legs and knees, yelling 'I can't breathe' while foolish cops go 'stop yelling, then you'll be able to breathe'.

Christopher Tindal #04392-509
USP Canaan
U.S. Penitentiary
P.O. Box 300
Waymart, PA 18472

Projected release date: 01/13/2028

What to Write

It's normal to feel intimidated or anxious about writing to a prisoner for the first time. People express this to us all the time, and we understand - you've never met the person before, you don't know what to say, you're not sure what things are okay and not okay to talk about... and cops might read your letter.

Just keep in mind that prisoners are regular people like us, and everyone is different. We can't tell you exactly what to write. We can only encourage you to be yourself so that diverse and genuine connections can be built. We can offer some general tips to help you get past any initial writer's block, though:

- Share some updates on what's going on in the outside world, especially things that are significant to you. Don't be afraid to give lots of details - letters are one of few links to the outside world that many prisoners have, so words and stories that can evoke vivid sounds, smells, tastes, images, and feelings can be very impactful.

- If you're not great with words, share a poem or some lyrics that you like. Or draw something! Or, if the rules permit, add articles or photographs; you can write in some commentary to personalize them.

- If the prisoner is in for a political offense you should obviously let them know you support their actions but don't start praising them as some sort of hero to the cause. Rhetoric to the effect of "I'm in awe of your great sacrifice blah, blah..." is frankly cringe-worthy. If someone is caught up for a political action they probably don't want to be seen as martyrs – they're just normal people unlucky enough to get caught, so write to them like normal people rather than fawning!

- Ask questions like you would with anyone else you were getting to know. What's their favorite food or movie? What are their interests?

503junk.house/@evdas/110500800307107798

Lore Elisabeth Blumenthal was released in August 2022 after being held pre-trial in Philadelphia since 2020. “Earlier this year, Lore entered into a plea agreement with the government that would reduce her charges significantly, from arson charges that carried mandatory minimum sentences of seven years each. In a 2021 report, the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) and the Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility (CLEAR) project at the City University of New York called Lore’s charges a shocking example of prosecutorial overreach to disrupt and suppress the movement against police violence. We will continue to work in solidarity with others facing charges and repression from the summer of 2020.”

Isaiah Willoughby, who was arrested and federally charged with one count of arson in connection to a fire at the Seattle Police Department East Precinct, was released in March 2022. You can listen to an interview with Isaiah on Kite Line, a weekly radio program and podcast about prison, here. He and others facing repression in the Pacific Northwest are supported by Puget Sound Prisoner Support.

www.kitelineradio.org/tag/isaiah-willoughby/
x.com/PugetSupport

Shawn Sutton was released from prison in North Carolina in February 2022 after facing repression from protesting in Greenville, NC. If you’re able, please help Shawn with her reentry by CashApp at $SeckundChanse1. She was interviewed about her experiences and background in “The World Was Not At Peace:” A Timeline And Interview With A Former Prisoner Of George Floyd Uprising In North Carolina.

itsgoingdown.org/nc-george-floyd-timeline-and-interview/

David Elmakayes

Read David’s piece “This Land” posted by Mongoose Distro.

Is this the “land of the free”? The land that was promised to our ancestors that died fighting to create “this land”? I thought this was the land where dreams of fairness and mutual respect lives on. The land where you are defined by your actions, not your looks or beliefs! But for too long these ideas have taken refuge inside works of literature, television programs and dreams. In this land “Equality should have no boundaries; opportunity should have no boundaries”. Worth should outshine color. The ball should bounce the same for everyone on “this land”. Funny how in this “land of the free” the only time we are treated equal is once you’re incarcerated. Ones name is replaced with a number. You’re given the same food, jumper and shoes, undergo the same subjugation and humiliation. If we can be equals in prisons, then we should be equals everywhere.

mongoosedistro.com/2021/07/02/this-land-by-david-elmakayes/

In February of 2022, David pleaded to arson and felony possession of a firearm; on June 14th, 2022 he was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison and 3 years of supervised release.

David Elmakayes #77782-066
USP Big Sandy
U.S. Penitentiary
P.O. Box 2068
Inez, KY 41224

Projected release date 01/06/2034

Khalif Miller

Follow @freekhalifphilly on Instagram, and support this fundraiser for Khalif's commissary.

www.gofundme.com/f/support-khalif-miller

Khalif Miller is a political prisoner serving time for his role in the 2020 rebellion in Philadelphia. Khalif is a loving father and is originally from North Philly. Khalif was arrested in October of 2020 on a Federal indictment pursued by Attorney General Bill Barr in an effort to silence and intimidate leaders in the Movement for Black Lives. Khalif was held on pre-trial detention for 2 years and eventually sentenced to 5 years in Federal prison. As he was on probation at the time of his indictment he was additionally given a 1-10 year state sentence for probation violation." He is one of five people indicted along with Ant Smith, and you can find posts about local support for Khalif on Ant's support social media and Philly ABC's social media.

www.instagram.com/freeantphl/
www.instagram.com/philly_abc/

"I was working, I was trying to get my business up and running, I was going to school. I was doing things not just to help my family, I was trying to help communities. The day that I went to the protest... the night before when I was even making my signs. I spent 4 hours just making signs and writing down a bunch of people who were unfairly killed by police officers. This is something I really feel passionate about. People say all the time, you can do anything you want in America. You can be whatever you want to be. Growing up, I heard it but I never really believed it because I felt like my resources were limited. The world has so many possibilities. I would like to teach that. That's one of the things I would like to be able to pass along to the younger generations when I come home."

Smart Communications/PADOC
Khalif Miller #QQ9287
SCI Forest
PO Box 33028
St. Petersburg, FL 33733

www.gofundme.com/f/support-adam-walton-prerelease-fundraiser

Shamar Betts was released to a halfway house in summer 2023. A fundraiser to support him in rebuilding his life after prison can be found here. Twenty-year-old Shamar Betts was indicted for the federal offense
of inciting a riot on June 5th, 2020, due to a post on Facebook regarding the death of George Floyd. You can learn more about Shamar, his case, and read some of his writings at his support site, and read an article about his case he was interviewed for here.

www.gofundme.com/f/help-shamar-rebuild-after-arrest-for-blm-protest
supportshamarbetts.wixsite.com/shamarbetts
theintercept.com/2020/10/30/federal-prosecutors-protests-pretrial-detention/

Da'jon Lengyel was released in summer 2023. He has a fundraiser to support him here. From the fundraiser: "Da'jon Lengyel is a 25-year-old man who was arrested during the George Floyd protests in Pittsburgh, standing up against police brutality and unfair treatment of African Americans... Despite there being no clear evidence that he started the fire, Da'jon was convicted of conspiracy to commit arson on a police vehicle and sentenced to 27 months in federal prison... Da'jon felt he could no longer be a bystander to the injustices on his people. He decided to stand up for his pride and who he is."

www.gofundme.com/f/dajon-lengyel-george-floyd-protest-pittsburgh

Jacob Gaines was released from federal custody in the spring of 2023. In September of 2021 Jacob Gaines plead guilty to assaulting a federal officer with a deadly or dangerous weapon during a July 2020 protest in Downtown Portland. From Jacob: "I ended up in Portland after traveling from Texas (my home state), I am a nomad, and I came to Portland to do music (death metal, black metal, etc.), it was in Portland that I found out what I believed were like-minded people (I'm against police and corporate-owned government), this led me to my eventual incarceration. Portland has called to me from the art, music, and people. I have fallen in love with the city. Thank y'all for being great." Check out this post about ways to support Jacob in his post release life.

www.gofundme.com/f/help-ellie-and-john-rebuild-after-prison

Ellie hopes to start a barber shop, reconnect with his child, and get back involved with community organizing. John also wants to continue his community organizing work, and is interested in food justice, animal rights advocacy, and vegan-ism.

John Wade was re-arrested in October 2024, please follow the work to support him at this GoFundMe and Atlanta IWOC.

Howard Nall was released in fall 2024. You can support him using CashApp at $cominghome1053.

Anthony "Ant" Smith was released in August, 2024. You can learn more about how to support his return home from his support group's social media accounts @FreeAntPHL on Twitter and Instagram.

twitter.com/FreeAntPHL
www.instagram.com/freeantphl

Hassan Muhammad (aka Vibez) is an African American, Anti Fascist activist, poet, songwriter and promoter from Portland, Oregon. Hassan was released in May 2024. Hassan has also organized a Go Fund Me for his mother, to help with financial and medical hardship she experienced during his incarceration. You can read a recent essay by Hassan on the RIOT Revolt blog.

www.gofundme.com/f/hassan-mother-facing-hardtimes-evitcion
riotrevolt.org/in-the-heart-of-a-revolutionary-in-the-midst-of-chaos/

Adam Walton is a Black man from Chicago who was arrested during the George Floyd Uprising for Black lives in May 2020. After over 18 months of pre-trial incarceration at Cook County Jail and the MCC, Adam was sentenced in December 2021 to 43 months in federal prison. Adam is a proud and loving father of 2 children, including an infant daughter. Adam was very close with his mother, who tragically passed before his release. Prior to being incarcerated, Adam worked hard to help his family. He was released to a halfway house in summer 2023, and has a fundraiser to support him and his family after release here:

Malik Muhammed

"My name is Malik Farrad Muhammad. I'm a 26-year-old black / Palestinian pansexual Muslim (yes, hella confusing). I'm an anarchist antifascist, anti-racist abolitionist (yes, both cops and prisons) for my love of freedom! My first protest was in high school: a walkout staged after Treyvon Martin's murder. From there, I never really got active again until "Bernie or Bust" and then, of course, the George Floyd uprising. I traveled the country and organized and fought and was ultimately kidnapped, ransomed, and now held prisoner here at OSP. I have a beautiful son, a beautiful wife and life partner, Jesse, who moved out here to Portland after my kidnapping by the feds, and a loving family back home in the Midwest. I'm also a veteran, I was a tanker in the army — and no, I'm not proud that I was part of the murder machine, so don't thank me for my service. I love music more than anything almost, am a guitarist and aspiring pianist, all genres.

Not much else to say except that I'm a lover of freedom, equity and equality, and will fight to my last breath for it. Unlike those who may regret a thing they did to get convicted or those who tempered their actions for fear of the consequences, I regret nothing, if only not doing more before I was caught. I will live for the people and I'll die for the people because I love the people, we who want freedom cannot rest till it comes."

You can learn more and read Malik's writing at their blog, Malik Speaks!.

malikspeaks.noblogs.org

Malik would love to receive letters and correspondence from people — anything to keep their spirits up and give them hope!

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

Matthew Rupert

From Minnesota Uprising Arrestee Support: "Matthew Rupert grew up in Galesburg, Illinois with his loving parents Linda and Michael, his oldest sister Kristy, Middle sister Kari, youngest sister Karen, and brother Christopher. His father became sick when Matthew was young. He passed away December 6, 2012 leaving Linda a widow. Matthew's mother was a CNA and is now on disability due to medical conditions. Matthew has been financially and physically supporting his mother. Matthew and his partner have been engaged for 2 years and planned to get married very soon, they have been together for 3 years. Matthew is a great father figure to his partner's 2 children. Matthew has several African-American friends. Tyler Smith was murdered in his hometown by police and no one was arrested, Matthew went to protest over Police killings, not to "riot" and loot! Matthew is facing 9-11 years in prison, which is well above the statutory presumption."

Matthew Rupert #55013-424
USP Big Sandy
US Penitentiary
P.O. Box 2068
Inez, KY 41224

Projected release date 07/26/2028

closely-knitted community here in the US. The conditions I'm under here in Carswell are too awful to mention, so it goes without mentioning that I only have you, my community reading this right now, as my only chance of beating this deportation case. I just want to return home, continue fighting for the liberation of our communities, and be able to marry my fiance Rene, while returning to my family I've fought tooth and nail my entire life to have. I have an incredible group of people fighting for us, but we need you. I need you. Please consider sharing my story, reaching out, donating, or whatever is in your capacity. I just want to stay home – I don't want my family separated any further than it's already been torn to shreds by the feds. Don't let them tear us apart. I just want to go home, not be deported to a country where I may die simply because of who I am or my butchness, for what I look like. Thank you for reading this.

Printable support zine here: archive.org/details/freeangelimposed.
Venmo: Loba-Cabrona
Cashapp: $PunkWolfe2

Rene Goddard served 7 months in federal prison, after being incarcerated for charges from 2020 in Arkansas. They have a GoFundMe for support with post-incarceration costs, and you can find them on Instagram at @_unpeachy and learn more about how to support them and their partner, Angel Espinosa-Villegas, who remains was deported to Chile. Angel has a support account at @free.all.dykes.

www.gofundme.com/f/help-rene-and-codefendants-with-restitution-fees

Richard Hunsinger was released in late November 2024 from federal prison, after being incarcerated for charges from a 2020 demonstration at a DHS office in Atlanta. Please check out his support committee's fundraiser for him.

www.gofundme.com/f/richards-expense

John Wade and **Ellie Brett** were released in June 2024 after years being incarcerated for charges from the 2020 uprisings in Georgia. A joint Go Fund Me for their post release support also has wishlists and other information about how community can welcome them home.

I'm leaving federal prison with nothing. I have only a little family left in this world, and a whole list of things to overcome when I touch down. With that in mind, I have two things to ask of you brothers & sisters. One, for all the political prisoners locked away in this system, I would ask that you continue to share the mailing/email addresses of the activists who sent you their info. That support is vital. My other request is that you update our community of my upcoming release, and let everyone know that any help when I'm touching down would be appreciated, My sister's
CashApp is SJessicaBail and anyone who can aid in smoothing this transition is welcome to send what they can and drop a note for me. I'm grateful.

Keep fighting,
Matthew White

The Final Straw Radio aired an interview with **Ángel Espinosa-Villegas** from ICE detention on their May 4th episode, please share!

thefinalstrawradio.libsyn.com/former-uprising-defendant-from-ice-detention-angel-espinosa-villegas

On April 1, 2025, Angel was taken into ICE custody to face deportation to Chile after the end of hir federal prison sentence. Angel has since been deported and reunited with family in Chile, and you can continue to support hir – learn more at Angel's support crew's Instagram: @free.all.dykes and support the GoFundMe for supporting Angel through deportation and re-entry and rebuilding hir life in Chile.

www.gofundme.com/f/political-prisoner-facing-deportation

My name is Angel Espinosa Villegas. I'm a trans butch immigrant, life-long organizer who has lived in the US since I was 7 years old. I am currently locked up in Carswell Federal Medical Facility in Ft. Worth, Texas after pleading guilty to a politically overcharged case. I am facing deportation charges after my 18-month bid here in Carswell. I am in dire need of criminal immigration representation so that I may stay home, here, in Chicago with my lesbian partner and co-defendant, Rene. Otherwise, once deported, I will never be allowed to return. No return to my partner, no return to my dog Aukan, to my sister, to my family and

Montez Lee

On January 14th, 2022, Montez Lee was sentenced to 10 years in prison, having pled guilty to one count of arson after facing multiple federal charges and being held without bond after his arrest. From Minnesota Uprising Arrestee Support: "My name is Montez Lee. I am a 25 year old African American male from Rochester, MN. I am father to two kids. I am being charged by the federal government on the charges of 1st degree arson. On May 28th, I decided to go to Minneapolis and protest with my community. I have faced injustices from local police departments myself and have been subjected to racism. I wanted to be a part of something bigger. I wanted to show my kids and peers that you fight for what you believe in. I'm sick of seeing people of color murdered by the same people sworn to serve and protect. I'm tired of people turning a blind eye to what's going on in this country. Though I've been here for months fighting this case, I will not let it break my spirit or make me forget my principles. I stand with my community and my people. Until there is change and we are treated as equals, we will fight. No justice means no peace."

You can listen to this recent episode of *Outlaw Podcast*, "After the Uprising: Reflections from Minneapolis on Solidarity with Political Prisoners Montez Lee & José Felan":

sites.libsyn.com/572680/after-the-uprising-reflections-from-minneapolis-on-solidarity-with-political-prisoners-montez-lee-jos-felan

Montez Lee #22429-041
FCI Petersburg Medium
Federal Correctional Institution
P.O. BOX 1000
Petersburg, VA 23804

Projected release date: 01/17/2029

Post-Release Support

Mujera Benjamin Lunga'ho, sentenced to 5 and a half years in federal prison after pleading guilty to arson during protests in Arkansas released in April 2026. Visit uprisingsupport.org for post-release support needs.

Margaret Channon, sentenced to 5 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to setting 5 cop cars on fire during the large protests in Downtown Seattle in May 2020, released to a halfway house in February 2026.

José Felan released to a half-way house in December, and has a fundraiser for post-release support: *www.givesendgo.com/freejosenow*. Follow @freejosefelan on Instagram for updates and more from José!

"Thank you to every single person who believed in me and supported me while I was incarcerated. I will never take it for granted. Although it is over for me now, this is just the beginning. My first step is to become established here. Then I plan to quickly grow and connect with others. I want to do for someone else what you guys did for me. It gave me wings and changed my life."

Tyre Means released from federal prison in August, 2025 and has organized a fundraiser for much-needed support! In March of 2021 Tyre plead guilty to one count of arson and one count of possession of a stolen firearm. His charges stemmed from the May 30th, 2020 protests in downtown Seattle. At his sentencing Tyre was given a 5 year federal sentence during which Tyre told the judge "the days of just rolling over to police brutality are over." He likes to read and write, make poetry and rhymes and he says "this time that I am away from my family friends and loved ones is only making me stronger as a man. I have no regrets."

www.gofundme.com/f/help-tyre-means-rebuild-after-incarceration

My name is Tyre Means. I am currently homeless in Seattle after spending the last 5 years in a Federal Maximum Security prison following the death of George Floyd in the Seattle 2020 uprisings. I lost everything to the system and need help getting on my feet. During my time, I realized that although my intentions were righteous, no one is above the law, even in civil unrest. If anyone is able to help me find employment so I can put some clothes on my back and a meal in my mouth, I would be grateful. I was released from prison with nothing. I need help so I can obtain work clothes, shoes, housing, etc., so I can adjust back into society. Please, no amount is too small; everything counts. ##RIPGEORGEFLOYD

Matthew White was released to a halfway house in 2025! There is a fundraiser to help him with his release:

midwestbookstoprisoners.org/prerelease-fundraiser-for-uprising-defendant-matthew-white/

Please read this inspiring March 2025 update from Matthew White about his release!

What's up Midwest Books to Prisoners? Greetings to all my comrades over there and among your readers. I just wanted to let you all know that I'm approaching my release/halfway house date after serving an unjust sentence for my role in the uprising in St. Paul after the murder of George Floyd.I hope all of you out there know that I'm grateful for the support I received from all of you there during my imprisonment. Your inclusion of my name/ information in subsequent installments of your newsletter has been greatly appreciated. In a carceral setting, just knowing that you aren't being forgotten, that the people who share your values, your dreams, and your belief in a better world still think of you and say your name – it means the world. Inside I'm surrounded by people who have become so desensitized to cruelty and injustice, or even more incomprehensibly, support the neo-fascism infecting our world at every level. After years of this, it's hard to keep hope and to maintain my resolve. Being reminded why I started to get involved in the first place – by seeing your regular updates of activism and direct action across the country — has helped me to not forget who I am or what is important to me. I might have lost some years, but George Floyd lost his life. That truth that perspective, grounds me. Apart from the mental and emotional strain of this experience, unfortunately a lot of other things have to be dealt with. When this all started I had a good job, years in recovery, and a stable, full, rich life like I'd never known before.