

ABCF

# UPDATE

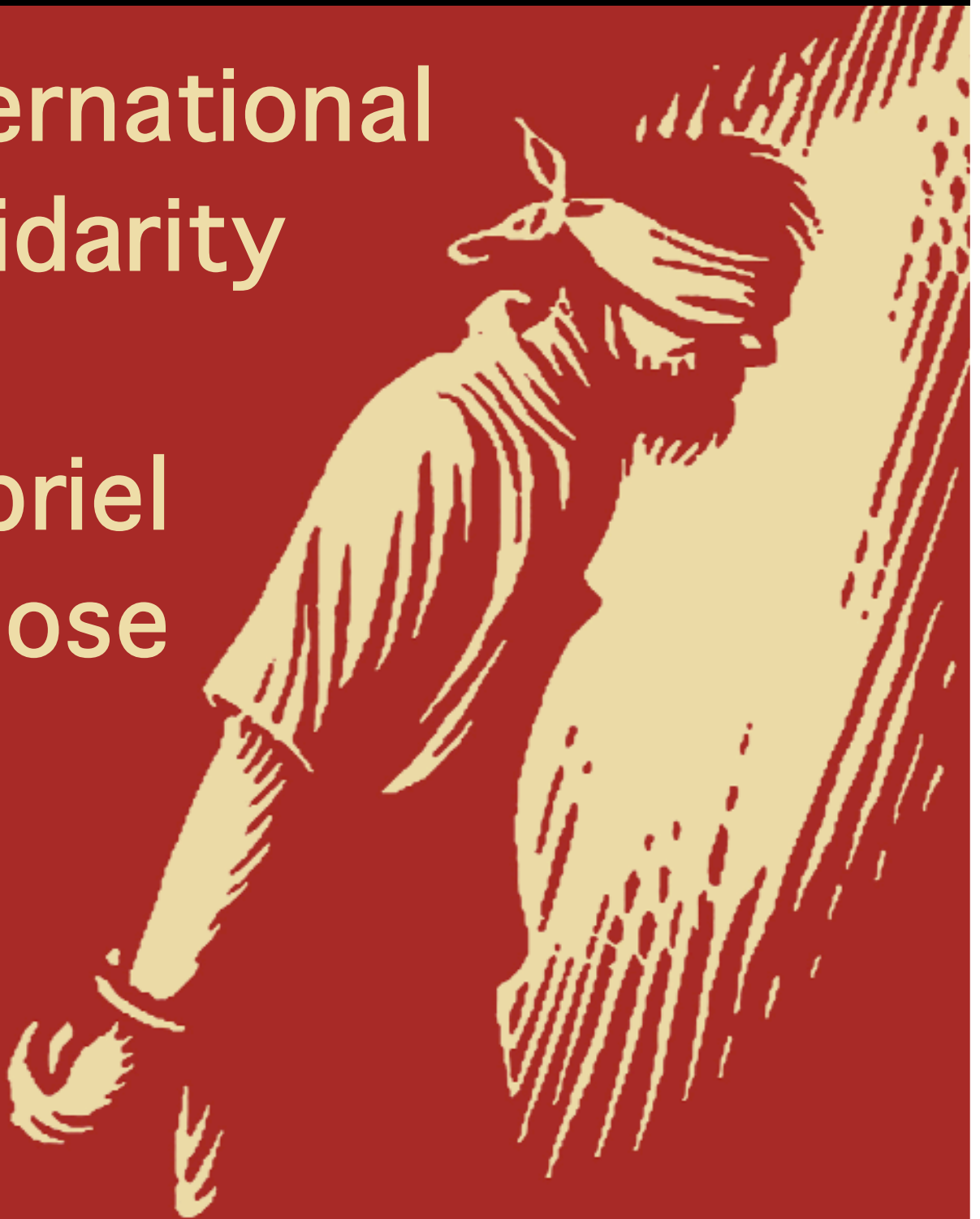
QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ABCF



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Winter 2008 *"Any movement that does not support their political internees is a sham movement." - O. Lutalo* Issue #49

## International Solidarity for Gabriel & Jose



## WHAT IS THE ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS FEDERATION?

The Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) began shortly after the 1905 Russian Revolution. It formed after breaking from the Political Red Cross, due to the group's refusal to support Anarchist and Social Revolutionary Political Prisoners. The new group, naming itself the Anarchist Red Cross (ARC), began to provide aid to those Political Prisoners who were refused support by the PRC.

In the early decades, the organization had chapters throughout Europe and North America. These chapters worked together to provide assistance to prisoners only in Russia. Soon other groups, such as the Latvian Anarchist Red Cross, emerged to provide aid in other Eastern European countries. Armed with the ideas of *mutual aid* and *solidarity*, these groups worked tirelessly to

provide support to those who were suffering because of their political beliefs.

In 1919, the organization's name changed to the Anarchist Black Cross to avoid confusion with the International Red Cross. Through the 1920s and until 1958, the organization worked under various other names but provided the same level of support as the other groups working as Anarchist Black Cross.

After 1936, the ABC expanded its aid to places such as Greece, Italy and Spain.

In 1958, the organization collapsed but reemerged in 1967 in London, England. Once again ABC chapters spread throughout the globe providing support for imprisoned comrades. Sadly, by the end of the 1970s only a handful of ABC chapters still existed.

In the 80s, however, the ABC began to gain popularity again in the US and Europe. For years, the ABC's name was kept alive by a number of completely autonomous groups scattered throughout the globe and supporting a wide variety of prison issues.

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 Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War.

Various groups have since merged in numerous networks throughout the globe working on various prison issues. The Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) has continued its mission to focus on the aid and support of Political Prisoners. We take the position that PP/POWs demand our top priority. We strive to continue with the same dedication and solidarity to our fallen comrades as those before us have shown.

### Introduction:

"Crucially important to maintaining the anarchist integrity of this organization is the fact that Branch Groups and Support Groups are freely autonomous to take on whatever initiatives they can to further the Unity of Purpose of the ABCF. So long as these initiatives do not contradict any pre-existing agreements (Tactical Unity) that have been made by the ABCF, it is not necessary for all groups to approve of and/or agree with programs, projects or work of other ABCF collectives." [from the ABCF Constitution and Structure]

The following definitions are used to describe the below terms whenever they appear in the ABCF Update or any other ABCF literature.

**Political Prisoner (PP):** A person incarcerated for actions carried out in support of legitimate struggles for self determination or for opposing the illegal policies of the government and/or its political subdivisions. [Special International Tribunal on the Violation of Human Rights of PP/POWs in U.S. Prisons and Jails, Dec. '90]

**Prisoner of War (POW):** Those combatants struggling against colonial and alien domination and racist regimes captured as prisoners are to be accorded the status of prisoner of war and their treatment should be in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August, 1949 (General Assembly resolution 3103)

### The ABCF is:

#### PRISONER COMMITTEE

**OJORE LUTALO**  
#59860 / Box 861  
Trenton, NJ 08625

**BILL DUNNE**  
10916-086  
Box 2068  
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24219

**JAAN LAAMAN**  
W41514 / Box 100  
South Walpole, MA  
02071

#### ABCF GROUPS

**JAX ABC**  
PO Box 350392  
Jacksonville, FL 32235

**NJ ABC**  
No Current Address  
but group remains  
active.

**LOS ANGELES ABC**  
PO Box 11223  
Whittier, CA 90603

**NYC ABC**  
123 Tompkins Ave.  
Brooklyn, NY 11206

**MONTREAL ABC**  
P.O.B 42053 SUCC  
Jeanne Mance  
Montreal QC  
H2W 2T3 Canada

**PHILLY ABC**  
PO Box 42129  
Philadelphia, PA 19101

## Urgent Medical Report on Joe-Joe Bowen

Philly ABC received news from Black Liberation Army (BLA) Prisoner of War, Joe Joe Bowen, that he was diagnosed with coronary heart disease. Doctors informed him a main artery was blocked with plaque build up.

The problem was discovered when Joe-Joe began to receive chest pains. He was transferred to a hospital outside the prison where he took some tests. The doctors informed him that if he did not receive a heart operation he would die. However, there was a serious danger with the surgery itself and he could also die because if there were any complications.

Joe-Joe was transferred back to the prison, where he contacted the Philly ABCF to inform them of what had transpired.

Several days later, Joe-Joe was again transported to the outside hospital where he had a stent inserted into the blocked artery. After

the surgery Joe-Joe reported to the Philly chapter that he was doing okay and is recuperating from his surgery.

We are asking for people to take a moment out of their day and send Joe-Joe a get well card. Let him know there are people that are rooting for him.

Contact him at:

**Joseph Bowen**  
AM-4272  
1 Kelley Drive  
Coal Township, PA  
17866-1021



[www.abcf.net](http://www.abcf.net)

ISSUE #49 Winter 2008

### Anti-Fascist Activist Jailed

German antifa activist, Andrea Neff, has been jailed for four months for merely having pepperspray on her (something which is actually LEGAL in Germany!) She now faces additional prison time for breaching probation conditions imposed on her after she attended an anti-nazi rally with some eggs full of pepper.

Please send urgent letters of support to:

**Andrea Neff**, Bnr: 746/07/2  
Justizvollzugsanstalt  
für Frauen in Berlin  
Arkonastrasse 56  
13189 Berlin  
Germany

### Mexican Activists Freed

On Jan. 25, seven adherents of the People's Front in Defense of the Land (FPDT) from the central Mexican village of San Salvador Atenco were liberated from the Mexico State prison at Molino de Flores, after a federal judge cleared them of charges of kidnapping and attacking communications infrastructure. They had been in prison since their arrest in violent confrontations with the police in May 2006. Charges were also dropped against 53 other FPDT followers who had been freed on bail. A collective of "Zapatista lawyers" announced plans to bring criminal charges against Judge Jaime Maldonado, for having "arbitrarily" ordered the 164 FPDT followers imprisoned.

Fifteen of the 21 police officers facing charges in the May 2006 violence were also exonerated. Spanish citizen Cristina Valls, who was injured by police in the confrontation, has announced that she will bring suit charging the Mexican authorities with "torture."

### Veronza Bowers Transferred

Veronza Bowers was snatched up from F.C.I. Coleman, Fl. and shipped to Atlanta, Ga. (Federal Prison Locator) on his way to F.C.I. Bennettsville, So. Carolina. He was able to get a call out but was not allowed to return to his cell to pack up his gear. Hopefully he will get his gear with in 60 to 90 days.

Bennettsville is about 70 miles West of Myrtle Beach and 75 miles S.E. of Raleigh/Durham, No. Carolina. Veronza has been kept illegally in prison since his mandatory release date in April 2004.

His new address will be:

**Veronza Bowers** 35316-136  
P.O. Box 52020  
Bennettsville, So. Carolina 25912

### Pannell Will Face Extradition

Former Black Panther, Joseph Pannell (also known as Gary Freeman) has decided to end his appeal to stop extradition to the U.S. from Canada. He will soon return to Chicago to face attempted murder charges for the incident.

In 1974, Pannell fled to Canada after being accused of the 1969 shooting of a Chicago police officer.

He has lived under the alias of Douglas Gary Freeman. He married, started a family and worked as a library research assistant near Toronto.

He was arrested in 2004 after the Chicago police cold-case squad, with the help of the FBI and Royal Canadian Mounted Police, tracked Pannell through fingerprint records. His prints matched those of a man -- Freeman -- stopped at the Canadian border in 1983 for smuggling a camera.

He will be held in the Cook County Jail until the legal process plays out.

### Court Sides with Al-Amin

On January 7th, a federal appellate court has ruled Georgia prison officials may have improperly opened convicted killer Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin's mail outside of his presence.

Al-Amin is the former 1960s militant formerly known as H. Rap Brown, who was once the chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the justice minister of the Black Panther Party.

He is serving a life sentence for killing Fulton County sheriff's deputy Ricky Kinchen and wounding another, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported Monday.

In 2005, while incarcerated in Georgia State Prison in Reidsville, Al-Amin sued prison officials for opening mail from his wife Karima, an attorney, without him present.

In its decision Monday, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found the prison's mail practice interferes with protected attorney-client communications and impinges on free-speech rights, the newspaper reported.

Since filing the lawsuit, Al-Amin was transferred to Supermax, the nation's most secure federal prison in Florence, Colo.

### Tom Manning Surgery

It has been reported that in early October, Tom Manning of the United Freedom Front(UFF) had surgery on his hip. His surgery took place in Boston but he now back in Springfield. He is currently going through rehabilitation and is using a walker to get around. He is still awaiting surgery on his right knee. The surgery was scheduled for January but has yet to happen.

### Yu Kikumura Free in Japan

LA ABCF members have received information that Yu Kikumura was released from prison in Japan on October 25th, 2007. Yu contacted Mo Nashida from Asians for Jericho soon after his release with the great news.

Kikumura, an alleged member of the Japanese Red Army, was released from US prison early last year and was extradited to Japan. His fate in Japan was uncertain but after 22-years in prison he is now a free man!

### Coronado Takes Plea

On December 14th, 2007, Rod Coronado entered a guilty plea to one count of distribution of information related to the assembly of explosives and weapons of mass destruction.

Coronado has fought this case for nearly two years. As part of the plea agreement, the U.S. government will ask for a one-year prison sentence. They will drop pending charges in Tucson for his possession of raptor feathers as well as any possible indictments for a speech he made in D.C.

### Arrest of Los Macheteros

On February 7, 2008, state agents captured Avelino Gonzalez Claudio, a member of Los Macheteros. He was detained while driving in the northern town of Manati in Puerto Rico.

Los Macheteros were suspected of carrying out a series of bombings and attacks in the 1970s and 1980s aimed at gaining independence for Puerto Rico. In 1983, the group engaged in the robbery of West Hartford, CT Well's Fargo armored car depot where they got away with more than \$7 million.

A federal warrant was issued for Avelino Gonzalez Claudio for his connection with the robbery, which resulted in Gonzalez Claudio going further underground.

In September 2005, the U.S. government assassinated Filiberto Ojeda Rios, leader of the group.

Within the last month, U.S. government has issued grand jury subpoenas against Puerto Rican activists in New York, but were postponed at the last minute.

It is believed the arrest of Gonzalez Claudio and the recent harassment of the Puerto Rican community are connected. The government is still looking for Norberto Gonzalez Claudio, Avelino's brother, and Victor Gerena, both accused of being part of the Hartford robbery.

Reports are coming out that Avelino Gonzalez Claudio is being tortured by the U.S. government in attempt to retrieve information about the other two wanted men and for additional information about Los Macheteros.



# EPR Responds to Repression in Oaxaca

Oaxaca, Mexico - Prominent police officer Alejandro Barrita Ortiz was assassinated yesterday morning. The incident appears to be linked to the fact that he played a key role in the repression of the Oaxacan anti-government uprising of 2006 that saw control of the state capitol fall into the hands of the Oaxacan People's Popular Assembly (APPO). An anonymous phone caller claimed responsibility for the killing on behalf of the Marxist-Leninist guerrilla group the Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR). The caller explained that Barrita Ortiz was the first, and

that there were "two more left to go."

Numerous activists were shot and killed by paramilitary goon squads of plain clothed police, state employees and their supporters, including American journalist and anarchist activist Brad Will. Once the uprising had been violently put down, dozens of activists were disappeared, brutalized and raped by police forces.

Barrita Ortiz, director of the Auxiliary, Industrial, Banking and Commercial Police, had been identified as having played a key role in the police operations during and in the

aftermath of the 2006 uprising. He was alleged to have been responsible for coordinating illegal detention of activists, as well as extra judicial paramilitary operations during the uprising.

The assassination took place in the "El Tequio" sports park near the international airport. Accounts vary. One reports that the assassins used a 380 and 9mm handguns. Another purports that AK-47s were the weapons of choice. According to the second version, the assassins fled the scene in a red pick-up and a black Dodge Stratus.

## Former Anarchist Political Prisoner has Case Dropped

A major victory took place for former political prisoner Matt Lamont. Matt received the news in court that his case has been thrown out- officially erasing his conviction. Matt Lamont was arrested on April 20, 2002, accused of trying to blow up a white power show in La Habra, CA. He was found guilty and sentenced to three years in prison. Since his release Matt has faced constant harassment by local police and federal agents- including imprisonment for parole violations, raids of his home and continued threats and harassment.

As late as November, Matt was threatened by FBI agents to either provide information or face possible arrest for parole violation. He refused to cooperate despite not having any information regarding 'criminal' activities.

Last month, another case was thrown



out because of the illegal manner in which the police searched the car. Because of the decision in this case, evidence against Matt was also thrown out. With no evidence against Matt, his conviction fell apart. Earlier this week Matt was released early from his parole- this was a good

indicator that today's court hearing was going to go in Matt's favor.

Matt is extremely relieved about the decision and looks forward to the opportunities he now has by no longer having a criminal record. He has had hard time finding and keeping jobs with a criminal record and continued harassment by police and the federal government. He no longer has to live under the shadow of this case.

Matt will soon be joining the Los Angeles chapter of the Anarchist Black Cross Federation- working for the support of political prisoners, something he has a great deal of knowledge about. Thanks for everyone that has helped Matt during his on-going battle over the last six years. Without your support all this would not be possible. Matt's victory is a victory to all of us in the Anarchist movement.

## Free the Black Riders! The Black Movement is Under Attack!

*By Nefertari Shakur, Black Riders Liberation Party*

On November 26, 2007, the leader of the Black Riders Liberation Party, General T.A.C.O. (Taking All Capitalists Out), was arrested in a roll-up raid on our Black Power van by police officers in Pinole, CA (a city near Oakland). When asked for the cause of this illegal search and raid, Pinole officers claimed that, "Pinole doesn't have any Black Panthers in the area." General



T.A.C.O. was then arrested and snatched by local police based on a Los Angeles arrest warrant on charges of "conspiracy to possess a machine gun," in an alleged plot to shoot up Los Angeles police stations. He is now being held under a "keep away" order in solitary confinement in the "high power" security section of the L.A. men's jail on \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) bail. BRLP Chief of Staff Nadia Shakur was also arrested in Pinole, and sent to jail in San Bernardino, CA. This was based on a previously-dropped charge of illegal weapons possession, (connected to an illegal raid in August of a home in Highland, CA, where San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies, Los Angeles sheriff's deputies and federal agents showed up with armored personnel carriers, a battering ram, S.W.A.T. (Special Weapons and Tactics) team, bomb squad and enough cops to seal off four square blocks around

the house). She is now being held in San Bernardino with bail set at \$75,000, and has a court date of January 9 for sentencing, on a plea bargain, to 180 days in San Bernardino County Jail.

Simultaneously in Los Angeles, Comrades Stress and Aryana Shakur were also arrested on the same charges as General T.A.C.O., with bail also set at \$1,000,000 for Stress and \$500,000 for Aryana. Comrade Aryana, our Minister of Information and a hard-line Black Rider soldier who has served the people for the past 11 years, has been through severe repression over the years due to her commitment to making revolution possible for all people in the world. In the illegal August raid, her son Jacori was kidnapped by the police and placed in foster care for the second time in three years. Instead of laughing innocently and freely playing like

**Continues on page 12**

# Conspiracy Count Dropped against Five of the San Francisco Eight!

Eight former Black Panthers were arrested on January 23rd in California, New York and Florida on charges related to the 1971 killing of a San Francisco police officer. Similar charges were thrown out after it was revealed that police used torture to extract confessions when some of these same men were arrested in New Orleans in 1973. Two of those charged are part of the New York Three.

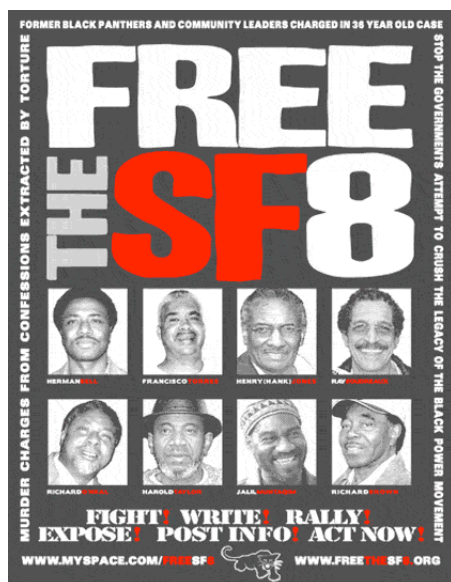
On January 10, Judge Philip Moscone officially accepted an amended complaint by the prosecution in the San Francisco 8 trial – in effect completely dropping charges against Richard O'Neal, who was only charged with conspiracy. While he faces no further legal prosecution in the case, Richard was immediately served with a subpoena to testify at the preliminary hearing scheduled for April 21.

## Conspiracy charges dropped

Ray Boudreaux, Richard Brown, Hank Jones, and Harold Taylor are now only accused of the alleged murder in 1971 of SF Police Sergeant John Young. The conspiracy counts were dropped against all five brothers when defense motions correctly challenged the charges on the grounds that the statute of limitations on charges of conspiracy in California (three years) had expired. The conspiracy allegations include several acts alleged to have taken place from 1968 to 1973.

## Next court date February 7

A new court date was scheduled for Thursday, February 7th when arguments will be made to drop the remaining conspiracy charges against Herman Bell, Jalil Muntaqim (Anthony Bottom) and Francisco Torres. The prosecution claims that because the three men were not in California, the statute of limitations does not apply. "This is a ridiculous argument," according to defense attorney Stuart Hanlon, "as these men were forcefully removed from the state against their will by being imprisoned. Following his acquittal on charges in New York State, Cisco Torres



was living in New York City. All three were consistently available to California State prosecutors."

## Formal pleas a year later

Almost a year after they were charged and arrested, all eight of the brothers formally entered NOT GUILTY pleas to all of the charges.

## This same case dropped in 1975

Former San Francisco District Attorney Thomas Norman was not available to testify at this hearing due to health issues. He was originally sought to explain why this same case was dropped in 1975 when he decided that there was insufficient evi-

dence to prosecute the case. So-called "confessions" made when several brothers were arrested, tortured, and forced to sign police-scripted statements were deemed inadmissible in the 1970s. Attempts to secure Norman's complete notes and files will be made in time for the February 7th hearing.

## Harold Taylor remains free on bail

California prosecutors resurrected a request to increase bail for Harold Taylor. Florida prosecutors filed charges in December against Taylor for the alleged purchase of a controlled substance. Judge Moscone was clear that although this was the case, the dropping of the conspiracy charges against him in San Francisco cancelled out the seriousness of the Florida matter – so bail will remain the same.

## Growing support

A large crowd of San Francisco 8 supporters had to wait outside in the hallway of the San Francisco Courthouse today after police officers were given early access to seats in Judge Moscone's court. The courtroom was nevertheless overwhelmingly packed with supporters and high energy as this major unraveling of the prosecution's case unfolded. All of the brothers felt positive about the legal developments and the growing level of public support for them.

## The government's case is falling apart

This is a major victory in this case which rests on statements coerced under torture. "This is the first step in the government's case falling apart," Hanlon said.

# Embassy Attack May be Related to Brad Will's Death

At approximately 3:50 am on October 26th, 2007, two homemade explosive devices were thrown at the Mexican Consulate on East 39th Street in Manhattan. Police found fragments of the explosive device and minor damage to the exterior of the building- including three broken windows. The devices were very similar to the two thrown at the British Consulate on May 5, 2005.

Police released the video footage of the 2005 incident, which showed a young man in his 20s bicycling away from the consulate after the grenade exploded. It also showed the individual scoping out the location before the attack.

According to the media, similar devices were used in both of the attacks. The 2005 attack used a plastic grenade filled with gunpowder and a fuse similar to those found on M-80s.

The recent attack used training grenades or "dummy" grenades – perhaps purchased from a novelty shop – that had been hollowed out and filled with volatile black powder and attached to a fuse or a charge. One of the metal grenades was smooth on its surface, to replicate those used by the military in the Vietnam era, and the other was scored, like a pineapple, and is more common to the type used during the Second World War.

Media connected the attack to the anniversary of the death of Brad Will, one of those killed in the repression that took place in Oaxaca. Will was in Oaxaca taking video and reporting on the state-wide popular uprising that the teacher strike that fueled in June 2006. Three others were killed along with Will but there was an outcry about his death by the U.S. anarchist movement because he was one of our own.

It is important to note that while the media drew a connection between the recent attack and the anarchist community, no anarchist group claimed responsibility for the action. Until then, connecting the two is nothing more than allegations.

# International Campaign for Spanish Anarchists

In the months of September and October, the anarchist movement came alive with a series of actions carried out in support of the José Fernandez Delgado and Gabriel Pombo da Silva. Known as part of the Aachen 4, the two anarchists had a variety of actions carried out in support of them from South America to Switzerland.

These actions were carried out in response to a call put out by International Anarchist Black Cross, making September 29th a day in Solidarity of José Fernandez Delgado and Gabriel Pombo da Silva.

Jose and Gabriel are two Spanish anarchists who escaped from Spanish prisons. Pombo da Silva spent 20 years in prison of which 14 were spent in the infamous FIES isolation units. He escaped in October 2003. Delgado escaped after serving 24 years in prison.

The two men were arrested on June 28, 2004 along with Begonia Pombo da Silva (Gabriel's sister) and Bart De Geeter, a Belgian anarchist active in Gent Anarchist Black Cross. The four were stopped in a car just beyond the German border at a gas station on the way to Aachen. Police stopped them for a drug check and insisted on searching the car.

During the stop, one of the four in the car pulled out a gun and shot in the air. In the next moments, the three men took a couple as hostages and fled with a car; Begonia was jumped upon and arrested by the police.

A shootout took place while the police chased after the three men. When their car broke down they let the hostages go and fled

with another car. Finally the three hid in a garage, where they were surrounded by the police, and after some time the three gave in.

The three men were charged with attempted murder (9 times), hostage taking (twice), armed robbery, planning of a robbery and serious traffic violations.

On September 28th 2006, the Aachen 4 were convicted. Jose Fernandez Delgado was sentenced to 14 years. Gabriel Pombo da Silva was given 13 years. Bart de Geeter received only 3 1/2 years and was released in January 7, 2007. Begonia Pombo da Silva was sentenced to 10 months with delay (other reports state 13 months with 3 years probation) but was soon released.

The German State refused to look at the evidence of torture within the Spanish prison system, a clear motivating factor behind Jose and Gabriel's actions. After they serve their time, it is expected that Germany will return the prisoners to Spain, to more torture, brutality and isolation.

The anarchist community has dedicated themselves to a build up of militancy in support of the two imprisoned anarchists.

We ask that anarchists and supporters of political prisoners to support these comrades and take a moment to write them.

**Jose Fernandez Delgado**  
JVA Rheinbach  
Aachenerstrasse 47  
53359 Rheinbach, Germany

**Gabriel Pombo Da Silva**  
JVA Aachen  
Krefelderstrasse 251  
52070 Aachen, Germany

## International Communiques in Support of Jose and Gabriel

This morning, we hit the Vols Wagen dealership.

This morning, we demonstrated our hatred towards the German State that has incarcerated our companions.

We demand the immediate liberation of Gabriel Pombo Da Silva and Jose Fernandez Delgado, who are found in the extermination centers of the German State, and all the prisoners of the world.

Fire to the state, to capital and its prisons.

Free Jose and Gabriel.

Revolutionary Black Cells

Kurt Gustav Wilckens Brigade

Buenos Aires, Argentina- October 9th 2007

"Windows of the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) at Hastings and Nanaimo were relieved of their structural integrity by a small group of anarchists in the late evening with the help of fist-sized stones. This action was done in solidarity with anarchists Gabriel Pombo da Silva, Jose Fernandez Delgado, Marcos Camenish, who were on hunger strike in European prisons. As well as to contribute to the actions taking place worldwide on this international day of action. RBC was hit because it is a bank. A fundamental institution which reproduces Capital. The very system (at the service and profit of a bunch of vultures) that exploits people world-wide and destroys life in general; as it simultaneously creates spectacular events of repression. Such as the 2010 Olympics, which is conveniently sponsored by RBC. Capitalism, with its prisons and banks, like RBC, exist worldwide. Let the road to the Olympics be littered with the wreckage we leave in their place! Anarchists."

Vancouver, Canada- September 29, 2007

"Today the 29th of September is an international day of solidarity with prisoners in struggle, and more particularly for Gabriel Pombo da Silva and Jose Fernandez Delgado, anarchist prisoners in Germany. (more info on [www.escapeintorebellion.info](http://www.escapeintorebellion.info)). Prison is the clearest expression of this society based on money, collective stupidity and the imprisonment of deviance (psychiatric, social, sexual). We struggle from the inside and outside to conquer the freedom which is ours. NOR GUARDS NOR PRISONS WILL STOP OUR REBELLION! INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY!"

## Spanish F.I.E.S. Units

The Spanish F.I.E.S. isolation units are a method to control, isolate and torture prisoners that resist or struggle against the prison authority. F.I.E.S. units are a prison within the prison where the prisoner is kept isolated with no contact whatsoever with the rest of the prison population, even exercise is done in complete solitude, all visits are monitored and the number of letters received is strictly limited. The prisoner is stripped of all his/her personal belongings and kept in a bare cell where even the mattress is taken out during the day. F.I.E.S. units are an experiment of different degrees of psychological torture and dehumanization of the individual together with regular and constant physical torture, beatings and insults. At least 20 prisoners have died or been killed since 1991 in F.I.E.S isolation units.

Prisoners and support groups are fighting for:

1. Efficient/effective medical attention
2. Free all prisoners with terminal illnesses
3. Abolition of these units and an end to the Isolation units F.I.E.S system
4. End of dispersion of prisoners (they should stay near their place of origin)
5. End of slave labor in prisons
6. End to sexual abuse in prisons and sexism
7. End to psychological and physical torture
8. An independent investigation of every death in prison
9. Against long term prison sentences (the longest people can spend in prison is 40 years at present)



# Timeline for Actions in Support of Gabriel and Jose

**September 16-** Switzerland & Germany - Anarchist prisoners Marco Camenisch (Switzerland), Gabriel Pombo da Silva and Jose Fernandez Delgado (Germany) start a hunger strike till 9/29

**September 18-** Zurich, Switzerland - A few persons occupy Radio Lora and read a communique in solidarity with anarchist prisoners Gabriel, Jose and Marco. Three persons go on hunger strike in solidarity with Gabriel, Jose and Marco.

**September 28-** Castellon, Spain - The imprisoned anarchist comrade Joaquin Garces Villacampa goes on hunger strike till the 30th of September for the following reasons: "- As a protest against the aberrant repressive practices against the anarchist comrades Gabriel Pombo da Silva and Jose Fernandez, prisoners of the German State. - For the abolition of State-Capital, privilege and domination in the broadest meaning of the word. LONG LIVE FREEDOM - DESTROY PRISON - FREE ANARCHIST PRISONERS"

**September 28-** Leuven, Belgium - Several banners with slogans like 'Against the jails of the State' and 'Freedom for All' were hung at bridges around Leuven. Pupils put out a banner in solidarity on 'their' school building where prisoners of Leuven can see it.

**September 28-** Montevideo, Uruguay - Locks of the Goethe Institute (German cultural institution) and Iberia (Spanish Airlines Company) were sealed. On the side (of the building) 'Solidarity with Gabriel and Jose' and an encircled A was written.

**September 28-** Bilbao, Euskadi - About thirty individuals gather at the German Consulate and distribute pamphlets in solidarity with Gabriel, Jose and all prisoners in struggle. Some enter the Consulate to make them send a fax to the German Ambassador in Madrid and the German minister of Foreign Affairs.

**September 29-** Ghent, Belgium - About 70 people take the streets and demonstrate through the city centre in solidarity with Gabriel, Jose and all prisoners in struggle. The demo ends in front of the prison of Ghent. In Brussel several slogans of rage appeared on building like 'Death to prison and its world' at the Hallepoort, 'Let's burn prison' at the Justice Tribunal. Two banners were hung on the big roads around the centre of Brussels.

**September 29-** Madrid, Spain - Three real estate offices in the neighborhood of Prosperidad get their locks sealed in solidarity with Gabriel, Jose, Marco and all other prisoners in struggle.

**September 29-** Zurich, Switzerland - In front of the Bezirksgericht about seventy persons gather in solidarity with Marco, Gabriel, Jose and Mehmet Esiyok. Pamphlets are distributed.

**September 29-** Vancouver, Coast Salish Territory, (Canada) - Windows of the Royal Bank of Canada were smashed in solidarity with Gabriel Pombo da Silva, Jose Fernandez Delgado, Marcos Camenisch.

**October 1-** Brussels, Belgium - Attacks on German consulate and BMW dealership. The German consulate in Brussels was attacked with paint bombs in solidarity with Jose and Gabriel and all the prisoners in struggle.

**October 2-** Brussels, Belgium - A BMW dealership in Brussels was attacked with Molotov cocktails in solidarity with Gabriel and Jose. At least two vehicles were consumed by flames.

**October 9-** Buenos Aires, Argentina- Kurt Gustav Wilckens Brigade attacks Volkswagen dealership in support of Gabriel Pombo Da Silva and Jose Fernandez Delgado.

## American Anarchist Charged in Spain as Terrorist

On April 23rd, Virginia activist and writer Peter Gelderloos was arrested by Spanish police at a demonstration on Las Ramblas, Barcelona. Peter was acting as a witness for the arrest of Xavier Mazas, when he was detained by police under suspicion of setting off a petardo - a firework used to scatter flyers into the air. Police accused Peter of being a "terrorist" and both Peter and Xavier were charged with illegal demonstration and public disorder, the latter carrying a prison sentence of between six and three years because it was allegedly committed with explosives.

Peter Gelderloos is an activist and author from Virginia. He is active supporting prisoners and participating in the movement for prison abolition. He works with groups such as Copwatch, Anarchist Black Cross, Food Not Bombs, and the local infoshop. He has written a number of articles and pamphlets, and two books, How Nonviolence Protects the State, and Consensus: A New Handbook for Political, Environmental, and Social Groups.

On April 25th, Xavier was released pending trial, and Peter was given a 30,000 euro bail and sent to Modelo prison. Local community activists raised the bail in only two days and Peter was released. However, Peter must remain in Spain, checking in at court every two weeks until his court date which could take up to two years. The government also initiated deportation proceed-

ings against Peter, along with a 7-year ban from Europe, on falsified grounds, while suppressing evidence that he had a legal status in Spain. If they succeed, this would separate Peter from several close friends.

On June 26, 2007, friends in the US organized a call-in day to let the Spanish Embassy know that Peter has a large base of support in the U.S. who will not sit silent while the Government of Spain attempts to push these charges against Peter. The impact of this and similar actions altered the tone the Barcelona police's exaggerated rhetoric, no longer describing Peter and Xavier as terrorists.

Peter has attempted to appeal the deportation case against him but has not had much headway. Despite this he is continuing the process.

On January 12, friends in Spain organized a benefit show for Peter. The event raised enough money to pay the lawyers with some extra money to go to the groups that put up his bail money.

Spain's economy is dependent on tourism and thus on their public image. Solidarity actions give hope to a movement facing repression and let the repressive government know there are consequences for their attacks.

This is not the first such case of someone being framed by the Barcelona police. As agents of a violent process of gentrification that is remaking the city of

Barcelona, the police have frequently falsely arrested, beaten, and tortured immigrants, squatters, and anarchists. Amnesty International repeatedly cites the Spanish police for torture, and even the abuse-blind European Union commission cites them for systematically violating speedy-trial rights.

Continued pressure on the Embassy or protests discouraging tourism or spreading information about the repression of anarchist and squatters movements in Spain will help.

Support is needed from U.S. based activists to pressure the Spanish Embassy to let them know this injustice will not be tolerated.

For information on other Spanish political prisoners see [presosalacalle.net](http://presosalacalle.net).

### New Issue of 4strugglemag

Issue #10 Out Now!

Writings by Political Prisoners

Available at: [www.4strugglemag.org](http://www.4strugglemag.org)  
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4strugglemag

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Succ. Jeanne Mance

Montreal QC H2W 2T3 Canada

# Two of the Barcelona 4 Released Before Verdict

Two of the "Barcelona 4 February" prisoners charged with injuring a cop two years ago were released on bail on January 15, pending the verdict which will be delivered at the end of the month. Unfortunately, the third prisoner being charged has not been released.

Juan and Alex have been released following their trial and the trial of Rodrigo and 6 others (on lesser charges) which happened between the 7th and 11th of January. None of the accused has received a verdict or sentencing yet.

The three facing the most serious charges have been in pre-trial detention for the last two years. The prosecution last week demanded 11 years of prison for the three detainees and 4 to 8 years for the other 6 comrades, despite medical opinion in favor of the defense stating that there was no way the three could have been responsible for the injury sustained by the cop.

In the early morning hours of February 4th, 2007, a group of young people left the house of some friends after a night of celebration. Some were on their way to the metro, others to another party that was being held in the closeby street of Sant Pere Mes Baix.

Once in Sant Pere, they saw a group of people having a discussion with the Guardia Urbana (one of the many police forces in this area) outside of the Anarko Penya, the squat where the other party was taking place. As the group approached this discussion, the police charged without warning, beating people severely.

The young people tried to leave the area, but could not escape the police blows. In the midst of this, all kinds of objects were being thrown from the balconies of the Anarko Penya. When the initial chaos of the situation had passed, seven people had been arrested and a

policeman was in a coma.

Two more people were arrested later in the hospital. They had not been in Sant Pere Mes Baix at all that night. They were simply arrested due to their "squatter-like" appearance and the fact that they had injuries.

All of the nine who were arrested were beaten and tortured at the moment of their arrest and continuously in the police station, hospitals and police vans. They suffered multiple injuries all over their bodies, blows to the head, black eyes, and two have broken arms.

The first "official" press release said a flower pot, thrown from the balcony of the Anarko Penya, had hit the policeman. It also claims the three people still in prison had supposedly thrown stones at the police from the street with the intention to kill. We will report any further news as it comes out.

## Raids Throughout Italy Target Anarchist Groups

The Italian government has engaged in a series of repressive measures against the anarchist community.

On October 23, 2007, Italian police arrested 5 anarchists they claim were part of a letter bomb campaign targeting officials including Prim Minister Romano Prodi.

The raids took place in a central town of Perugia. Police claim the anarchists are members of a group called "Coop/FAI" an acronym that stands for "Against all political order/Informal Anarchist Federation.

Further allegations state they are responsible for letter bombs sent to Prodi, then president of the European Commission, to the president of the European Central Bank and other European Union institutions.

Apartments have been raided and computers confiscated by the police. Allegedly, documents were found related to this FAI cell indicating that there has been various talk about the struggle against the TAV (high velocity train), as well as, other projects, which put the environment in danger, with a declaration "towards the acceleration of the revolutionary guerrilla and of the ecological armed struggle in Umbria".

On January 25th, 2008, 8 additional raids were ordered in the cities of La Spezia, Livorno, Pisa and Roma.

The raids targeted mostly anarchists, who are being accused of attempted murder with the aggravation of terrorism. During the raids, materials useful to catalogue DNA were taken following European directories intended to create a databank for prisoners and social rebels. No names of those arrested have been reported.

The raids are in response to an explosive attack against the Folgore (military corpse) station of Via Vannucci in Livorno, September 2006. This station hosts those who have participated in the so-called "mission of peace" in Somalia, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and now in Iraq.

Here the addresses for those arrested in October 2007:

Michele Fabiani, Andrea Di Nucci, Dario Polinori, Damiano Corrias and Fabrizio Reali Roscini  
c/o casa circondariale di Perugia  
Capanne  
strada Pievaiola km.11+800  
06100 PERUGIA, ITALY

## Philadelphia ABC's Chapter Report

2007 started off with an expansion of membership when the local ABCN chapter merged into the Federation bringing with it several dedicated activists, who had put on a successful and strong tribute to the late New Afrikan anarchist, Kuwasi Balagoon. The event received positive coverage in a local Philly newspaper and brought together many veterans from Black/New Afrikan Liberation struggle with younger activists. We soon established working relationships with Philly's PP/POW activist community. In August we hosted the Tom Manning art show in West Philly, which also turned out a mix of activists similar to the Kuwasi event. Again we received a supportive write up in the local press.

Philly ABCF continued to operate the Warchest Program and was mildly successful in raising funds for the Warchest. We set up literature tables at many political / cultural events around Philadelphia throughout the year. We had many productive meetings where we discussed PP/POW history and current situations of PP/POW along with other topics relevant to today's struggle. Members were able to visit with Ojore N. Lutalo several times and one visit with Maliki Shakur Latine.

Unfortunately, as in the past with many political groups, internal contradictions arose within the group which eventually lead to two of the core group members departing. This situation was mainly due

to the inability of members to maintain group discipline and resolve conflict through criticism/self criticism. We also learned a hard lesson in accepting people into the group without proper vetting process. We allowed an activist with a long history of mental instability and disruptive behavior to continually tie up the group in their personal/past group baggage leaving the group in a constant state of tension through the latter part of the year.

Despite this set back Philly ABCF continues to maintain good working relations with Philly's broad PP/POW support community and will take these lessons learned from 2007 into 2008

Solidarity and Struggle! Tim



# J. Edgar Hoover informed by Omaha FBI of cover-up of evidence in Black Panther case during COINTELPRO and took no action

By Michael Richardson

The Nebraska Supreme Court is hearing the appeal of Ed Poindexter's 1971 conviction for the bombing murder of Omaha police officer Larry Minard. Poindexter was head of the Omaha chapter of the Black Panthers, called the National Committee to Combat Fascism, when Minard was killed in an ambush bombing while answering a call about a woman screaming.

A fifteen year-old, Duane Peak, confessed and was convicted of planting the bomb. However, in exchange for testimony against Poindexter and his co-defendant, Mondo we Langa (formerly David Rice), the young murderer was given a deal and sentenced as a juvenile, walking free in 1974.

At the time of the bombing, the Black Panthers were the targets of a secret, and illegal, operation of the FBI ordered by Director J. Edgar Hoover to disrupt the group. COINTELPRO agents in the field, eager to please Hoover, engaged in a wide variety of dirty tricks, including illegal acts, and dutifully notified Hoover.

Poindexter and Langa were already targets of COINTELPRO when Peak committed his crime and the Omaha Police went to work to make a case against the two Panther leaders working closely with federal agents.

Peak's testimony against Poindexter and Langa was critical to obtaining their conviction, and his credibility was crucial. However, the police had one big problem: the voice on the emergency call that lured Minard to his death did not sound like Peak. If Peak had an accomplice who made the call then his testimony against Poindexter and Langa was suspect.

In exhibits now before the Nebraska Supreme Court, the COINTELPRO com-

muniqueés are under review and tell a disturbing tale of withheld evidence and Hoover's knowledge of the withheld information. On the day of the bombing, August 17, 1970, the Special Agent in Charge of the Omaha FBI office sent an Airtel message to Hoover.

"Enclosed for the laboratory is one copy of a tape recording obtained from the Omaha Police Department."

"The enclosed tape was recorded from an existing tape (the original) recording used by the Omaha Police Department in their normal emergency telephone calls for the period of 8/17/70 between the hours of 12:00 Midnight and 9:00 a.m."

"[Name redacted] inquired into the possibility of voice analysis of the individual making the call by the FBI Laboratory. He was advised the matter would be considered and that if such analysis were made and if subsequent voice patterns were transmitted for comparison, such analysis would have to be strictly informal, as the FBI could not provide any testimony in the matter; also, only an oral report of the results of such examination would be made to the Police Department."

"Any assistance rendered along the lines mentioned above would greatly enhance the prestige of the FBI among law enforcement representatives in this area, and I thus strongly recommend that the request be favorably considered."

"In view of the forgoing, it is requested that the FBI Laboratory examine enclosed tape recording and make the appropriate voice print to be retained for comparison against other tape recordings of suspects to be submitted at a later date."

Two months later on October 13, 1970, after Peak's preliminary hearing and testimony that he made the emergency call, the

Omaha Special Agent in Charge again notified Hoover of developments in the case and passed along the request to ignore the tape.

"Assistant COP GLENN GATES, Omaha PD, advised that he feels that any use of tapes of this call might be prejudicial to the police murder trial against two accomplices of PEAK and, therefore, has advised that he wishes no use of this tape until after the murder trials of Peak and the two accomplices has been completed."

"UACB, no further efforts are being made at this time to secure additional tape recordings of the original telephone call."

The recording of the emergency call was withheld from defense lawyers and jurors in the case never got to hear the voice that set the lethal trap. The original tape was destroyed in April 1978. Later, a copy made at the order of George Winkler, head of police communications in Omaha, surfaced. Poindexter's co-defendant, Mondo we Langa, raised the matter on appeal.

In 1983 the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled that there had been no "expert in voice analysis" to support the claim that Peak's voice was not on the emergency call tape and denied Langa's appeal. In 2004, Poindexter tried again and in 2006 a vocal expert, Tom Owens, subjected the tape to a series of scientific tests concluding that to a high degree of certainty it was not Peak's voice on the withheld tape.

Now, twenty-five years after Langa's appeal about the tape, the Nebraska Supreme Court will again review the matter, this time considering both expert testimony and with knowledge about J. Edgar Hoover's role in the withholding of exculpatory evidence. A date for a decision has not been set.

## Greek Anarchists Rise Again

Anarchists in Greece have been especially active since the start of the New Year. An Athens-based anarchist group claims responsibility for the first attack against a capitalist institution of 2008, as recorded by the Athens police. At 4:43 am on January first, a branch of Geniki Bank, a subsidiary of the larger Kyprou Bank, was firebombed in the Kypseli area of central Athens. No one was injured, but the entrance to the building was damaged.

Throughout the month of January and into February, actions continued.

In the first week of January, anarchist groups in Greece targeted police and police



stations. On one occasion, police standing guard outside the Socialist Party headquarters were attacked. On another, ten hooded motorcyclists attacked the entrance of a police station with Molotov cocktails. Chanting anarchist slogans, "perpetrators" destroyed a total of 12 cars in the center of Athens in one night.

On January 26, a police station was attacked with firebombs. Multiple vehicles were destroyed. At the end of the month, various luxury cars in Athens were set aflame in apparently coordinated attacks across the capital. The Greek police's anti-terrorism unit has taken up the case.

Anarchism in Greece has a long and vibrant tradition that began in 1860, when the first libertarian documents were published; the ideas were in accordance with the beliefs of anarchist thinkers in Europe at the time. Anarchist organizations like the "Democratic Association" maintained libertarian socialist principles throughout the rest of the 19th century and well into the 20th.

In the years that followed, from about 1910 to 1945, at the close of World War II, while anarchists were not involved in explicitly anarchist groups, they played a role in various socialist and communist labor unions, pushing those organizations to more libertarian positions. The Greek anarchist movement was galvanized in

1967, when the Greek military junta consolidated power. Students who considered themselves autonomists and anarchists played an instrumental role in resisting the oppression of the military government.

In 1980 the anarchist movement was deflated when a socialist government—in alliance with Greek communists—took power and offered enough concessions to the people to sway many away from the direct class war of the previous decades. Small cadres of extremely militant anarchists continued the fight against the government until 1991, when a new generation of anarchists was born. The 1991 high school uprising saw a resurgence in anarchist groups who spearheaded the occupation of about 1500 schools. In part this was

a result of the murder of the ultra-left teacher Nikos Temponeras by members of the ruling New Democracy Party, a right wing political organization. In this decade, many who honed their politics in the student uprisings took part in attacks against police stations, banks and media conglomerates.

Most recently, on February 2, a far right group called Golden Dawn in Athens staged a march through the city with about sixty members. They were met by approximately four hundred anarchists, who blocked the street and hurled stones at the neo-fascist extremists.

A police officer stated, "The situation has calmed down, but we are still on alert for any escalation."

## Continuing Trend, U.S. Sentences Key FARC Negotiator

Ricardo Palmera, a senior peace negotiator for the Colombia Revolutionary Armed Forces People's Army (FARC) was arrested in 2004 and extradited to the United States to face trial for, among other alleged offenses, responsibility in the kidnapping of three American contractors held by the FARC. The three American contractors were flying over rebel territory when their plane crashed and they were taken prisoner by FARC forces. Throughout the trial, Professor Palmera, whose nom de guerre is Simon Trinidad, maintained that his role was as a negotiator in prisoner exchange talks with the Colombian government.

Dr. Palmera's trial, which ended in November, resulted in a hung jury on all charges except 'conspiracy to kidnap,' of which he was convicted. Jeremy Miller of Students for a Democratic Society said, "He is being punished simply for being a member of an organization fighting back against the oppression in his country."

On January 28, 2008, Simon Trinidad was sentenced to sixty years in federal prison without possibility of parole.

While this case is of special significance considering Palmera's alleged high-ranking status in FARC, the US government has been actively involved in the disintegration of the movement for decades, through the use of military aid to the Colombian government as well as other means, like infiltration of various cells of FARC. As recently as December 9, three Colombian nationals pleaded guilty to "conspiring to support the FARC and Alien Smuggling Charges." Victor Daniel Salamaña, 64, Carmen Maria Ponton Caro, 38, and Edizon Ramirez Gamboa, 40, had been infiltrated by federal informants and were subsequently brought to trial in Miami.

In a case that serves as yet another example of the consistency of American

attacks against the Colombian radical left, Anayibe Valderrama, AKA Sonia, was extradited to the United States in March of 2004 on drug charges. (She was arrested by the Colombian military in a raid meant to root out the FARC members who had participated in the kidnapping of the three American contractors). She was successfully prosecuted in the summer of 2007 and convicted of exporting cocaine to the United States to finance the rebels. Presently she is serving a sixteen and a half year sentence in a Texas penitentiary.



Without a sense of irony, President of Colombia Alvaro Uribe said that the arrests and convictions should serve as a warning "*that no young person should join a terrorist group; that all young people should seek the right path.*"

The FARC is a leftist militant organization of about 12,000 members that has been struggling for a just, peaceful Colombia against ruling liberal and conservative governments for more than four decades. The US government considers FARC a terrorist organization and a drug cartel.

In his final words to the courtroom after the sentencing, Palmera was quoted as saying:

"Latin America is a region of great economic disparity. The FARC supports the basic human rights that everyone needs to lead a dignified life, including access to

nutrition, education, potable water, electricity, dignified living conditions, recreation and rest. Some 54 percent of Colombians, or 24 million people, live below the poverty line on just one to two dollars a day.

"A variety of fertile lands and climates would permit the harvesting of crops in Colombia 12 months a year, providing enough for all Colombians as well as a surplus for export. Colombia is also rich in mineral resources, including gold, nickel, coal, salt and oil. Colombia's biodiversity, in flora and fauna, the fish in its rivers, and a wealth in human resources make Colombia a very rich country able to provide for all of its inhabitants.

"Nevertheless, a small group of people, the petty governing class, has monopolized these resources, taken the best lands, controlled the economy, and kept the rest of Colombia in poverty. Leaders of both Liberal and Conservative parties have legalized these monopolies for the benefit of the rich, and by the same token, handed over Colombia's resources to foreign capitalists for their own enrichment.

"The oligarchy's policy of violence utilizes murder, torture and disappearances as tools against their opponents to keep themselves in power. Examples range from the genocide of the Gaitanista movement in the 1940s to the extermination of the Union Patriótica in the late 1980s. The three branches of power in the government have granted themselves impunity for all of their crimes, as well as those of the military and paramilitaries."

Professor Palmera ended his speech with a raised fist and the shouted words: "Long live Manuel Marulanda! Long live the FARC! Love live Simon Bolivar, whose sword of freedom continues to advance throughout America!"

(No address has been listed for Palmera)

# LA ABCF: 10 Years of Solidarity and Resistance

January 2008 marks the tenth anniversary of the Los Angeles chapter of the Anarchist Black Cross. We are proud and honored to be the longest running self-proclaimed anarchist group in the Los Angeles area.

LA ABC was formed by members of the Black Star Collective, Alternative Gathering Collective and Whittier Food Not Bombs. The group was formed by several anarchists who wanted to engage in concrete work based on the ideas of mutual aid and solidarity – two major tenets of anarchism.

Many of the earlier contributors had directly been affected by the prison system and thus was a natural interest in their politics. After a chance meeting with Lorenzo Komboa Ervin (former anarchist political prisoner) in San Francisco, it became clear to the anarchists that political prisoner support was a necessary part of the anarchist movement; we began to build the foundation for the ABC chapter in Los Angeles.

During the first year, the struggle to stop Mumia Abu-Jamal's execution was gaining momentum, allowing for LA ABC to jump

10  
*years of support*

straight into a campaign of utmost importance. In March of '98, members of the LA ABC met with several Anarchist Black Cross Federation chapters during the Jericho march in Washington DC. Six months after the march, LA ABC joined up with the ABC Federation.

Since its inception, the LA ABC has continued to work diligently for support of political prisoners in North America. As part of the ABCF, we have collectively raised over \$50,000 through the Warchest program (a program designed to provide support to political prisoners in financial need). We have developed campaigns for several local political prisoners- including Romaine Chip Fitzgerald and Matt Lamont. More importantly, we have built

strong relationships with current and former political prisoners, working day and night on their support and freedom. We have been honored to know some comrades, such as Rich Williams, who have enriched our lives prior to having their lives taken in struggle.

Members of LA ABC have also focused on trying to rediscover the history of the Anarchist Red/Black Cross movement. Over the years, we have created an archive of the ABC, with some material dating as far back as 1913.

We are proud to have reached this benchmark and look forward to another decade of resistance and support. This statement about our 10th anniversary would be meaningless if we did not ask in closing for people to take a moment out of their day to write at least one of our imprisoned comrades. You can view their addresses and short biographies on our site: [www.abcf.net/la](http://www.abcf.net/la).

In Solidarity,  
LA ABCF

## FREQUENTLY USED

# Acronyms/ Terms

**ABCF:** Anarchist Black Cross Federation - anti-authoritarian federation of ABC groups who support and defend PP/POWs.

**ABC-BG:** Branch Group - ABCF group with more responsibilities than a SG.

**ABC-SG:** Support Group - ABCF group with fewer responsibilities than a BG.

**AIM:** American Indian Movement - above ground revolutionary organization of Native Americans.

**Anarchism:** Free or libertarian socialism. Anarchists are opposed to government, the state, and capitalism. Therefore, simply speaking, anarchism is a no government form of socialism. Types of anarchists include: Anarcho-Communist, Anarcho-Syndicalist, Autonomist, Collectivist, Individualists, and Mutualists.

**BLA:** Black Liberation Army - revolutionary Black clandestine formation formed to defend the Black community and the BPP, inactive since the '80s.

**BPP:** Black Panther Party - above ground Black revolutionary group seeking Black political power, disbanded in the mid-'70s.

**FALN:** *english translation:* Armed Forces of National Liberation - revolutionary clandestine group fighting for Puerto Rican independence.

**FC:** Federation Council - decision-making body of the ABCF.

**MOVE:** Not an acronym, the name of an organization based in Philadelphia whose members are committed to the teachings of John Africa. Their belief is in "life."

**PC:** Prisoner's Committee - rotating body of 5 PP/POWs on the ABCF's FC.

**PP/POWs:** Political Prisoners and/or Prisoners of War.

(See page 1.)

**Self-Defense:** The legal act of protecting one's life or the life of another with the idea/purpose of self-determination and independence. Armed self-defense is relative to the ABCF, specifically in the U.S., in that as the organization grows, so too grows the need to protect ourselves from the armed aggressor of the state, right wing, and other ideological opponents. (Firearms training as preparation for self-defense are legal activities within the confines of the U.S.)

**Self Determination:** The right by virtue of which all peoples are entitled freely to determine their political status and pursue their economic, social, and cultural development. All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic cooperation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of their own means of subsistence.

**SDS:** Students for a Democratic Society - left student group founded in the '60s.

**The Update:** This is a quarterly publication of the ABCF.

**WUO:** Weather Underground Organization - first the Weathermen, later known as the WUO, evolved out of the SDS as an underground formation of primarily white anti-imperialist revolutionaries from the student movement.

*(The Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) produces the Revolutionary Political Dictionary with these and other expanded definitions of political terms. Available from Los Angeles ABC for \$1 and two 41 cents stamps.)*



# New York City ABCF Application

Dear comrades,

We are the newly formed NYC Anarchist Black Cross and we are interested in joining the Federation. Below is a report on our progress as an ABC collective.

So far we are four members. We are seeking more members as the needs and opportunities for our work are great. Prior to the formation of the ABC, three of us were personal friends and comrades of Daniel McGowan, so naturally at the time of his arrest in December 2005, we found ourselves in his core support committee and began to take our commitment to political prisoner support more seriously. All of us had some relationship to political prisoner support and had done secondary or sporadic work prior to 2005. Our experience as anarchists is varied from IWW/class-struggle organizing, to radical-acceptance feminism, to military counter-recruitment and community organizing, anti-racist activity, and environmental and animal rights struggles. The four of us came together out of a shared interest in making support and liberation of political prisoners and prisoners of war a priority. We also share an interest in bridging generation, movement, and tendency divides between social justice communities.

In February 2007 we began our work as an ABC collective. We began holding Political Prisoner Letter-Writing Dinners in which we provide vegan dinner, followed by a presentation about a featured pp/pow or group. We educate and encourage people on writing prisoners with the supplies we provide. We continue to host such an event every other Tuesday. Having began in people's houses, these nights are now hosted in the 123 Community Space in Bed-Stuy Brooklyn where we are a member organization involved to varying extents in other mutual-aid and community-based programs.

This fall we began to assemble monthly calendars of upcoming pp/pow and anti-repression events in New York City. Through this and by cross-promoting events among various communities we have been able to publicize and encourage virtually all of the pp/pow support activity in the city in coalition with our allies.

This past summer we called for a summit of virtually all general pp/pow support groups in NYC and we met in October to share resources, encourage cooperation, and assess what needs are going unmet so that our work could become more focused. We are working on a list of pp/pows held in New York or New Jersey or from New York or New Jersey and assessing the levels of support each receive. Through this process

we were able to identify Malik Shakur Latine as not receiving local support and have begun a correspondence and potential support relationship with him. With help from Matt Hart of LA ABCF we learned about him and also his co-defendant Jose Saldana who is not yet listed. We plan to contact him and assess his situation as well. Our second summit was held in October, and it focused on coordinating our efforts for the San Francisco 8 benefit held on November 30. This second meeting did a good job of solidifying our connections to one another as part of a single struggle.

The SF 8 benefit on November 30 that



so many groups worked on was a huge success, bringing hundreds of supporters together and raising thousands for the 8. We, along with all of the other sponsoring groups, provided money and were able to bring 4 of the 8 out to New York for the event. The event was sort of a test to see how differing pp/pow groups can work together. We feel very positive about the results.

Much of our work so far as an ABC has been in providing assistance to direct support committees such as those of Daniel McGowan, Andy Stepanian, Eric McDavid, as well as small favors and correspondence with Russell Maroon Shoats and Sundiata Acoli. For the former three we have organized fundraisers and for Daniel McGowan in particular we have experience in virtually every aspect of pp/pow support. Further, we are now taking a leading role in Andy Stepanian's support, and are hoping to bring more attention to his case in the coming year.

We see great need among some groups of prisoners including the New Afrikan prisoners who require reinvigorated support movements so that they can hope not to live out the remainder of their lives in prison, as well as the Green Scare prisoners whose support is often sporadic and inex-

perienced. It is our hope that we can personally fill in the gaps left by existing political prisoner support while also agitating and organizing for increased strategic efforts on the part of activists, social movements, and concerned people toward freeing movement prisoners. Our vision involves providing reliable support where it is most needed and generally working in coalitions to encourage social justice movements and communities to integrate pp support into all of their goals and work.

We have spent a considerable amount of time discussing whether or not we are interested in affiliating with the ABCF. We are interested in working toward the Federation changing some of the language in the materials. We think that the Constitution Bylaw #7 should be changed, as the Federation should not mandate individual behavior. We would not want to be expected to inform other Federation members if we suspected a Federation member of using illegal drugs because such a communication could unnecessarily make people vulnerable to law enforcement. In addition, we think that the ABCF's definition of political prisoners and prisoners of war can be interpreted to include some Earth and Animal prisoners. We believe that the Federation should not exclude Earth and Animal prisoners but rather, should consider them for political prisoner and prisoner of war status using current definitions on a case-by-case basis.

That said, we would much rather be part of the Federation than not. We think that the standards put forth in the ABCF Guide are a very solid foundation for revolutionary work and we would be honored to be part of the organization that lives by them. We want to be part of an organization that is greater than the sum of its collectives and we see this opportunity in the ABCF. We want to contribute to the Warchest and the Anarchist Subsistence Program. We want to be accountable to the Prisoner Committee and the Federation Council. And we want the opportunity to benefit from and contribute to the efforts of the Federation.

In Solidarity,  
The NYC Anarchist Black Cross

(Editor's Note: The Federation Council of the ABCF met the Monday after the application was sent out. The vote was unanimous in favor of accepting the NYC ABC into the Federation. We wish to welcome the NYC chapter to their new home.)

# Montreal ABCF Update

Montreal ABCF has been busy expanding our empire, with Karen, Emily and Sara now living in Toronto. For the next little while we'll continue to work as part of the Montreal group, but we plan to form a separate Toronto branch group within a few months.

Our major project for the past few months has been the Certain Days: 2008 Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar ([www.certain-days.org](http://www.certain-days.org)), in collaboration with PPs David Gilbert, Robert Seth Hayes and Herman Bell. This year's edition, themed "The Legacy of

the Panthers," is a fundraiser for the SF8.

We're also proud to have just published Issue 10 of 4strugglemag ([www.4strugglemag.org](http://www.4strugglemag.org)), our zine of writings by political prisoners and their supporters. We are now working with Vancouver's Anti-Poverty Committee to send hundreds of free copies to prisoners in North America. Together with our editor, anti-imperialist PP Jaan Laaman, we'll make it an even stronger voice in our movements in 2008.

## Black Riders article continued from page 7

other kids his age, Jacori has had to suffer pounding on the door in the middle of the night by the police, screams of terror, the repeated arrest of his parents, not to mention S.W.A.T. team firearms pointed at his small seven-year-old body. Although Aryana's motherhood has been viciously stripped from her once again, she will remain strong for her people and continue to empower and defend all mothers and children against this heartless enemy.

All this has been done by the racist pig power structure in order to try to stop our organization's revolutionary expansion and influence in Amerikkka.

General T.A.C.O. is a former gang member who created the Black Riders Liberation Party in 1996 in the Youth Training Service's prison college class along with other prisoners. He has worked hard to bring about Black self-determination and African pride to people who have been robbed of most of their dignity and identity by racist white people and the pig power structure. Because General T.A.C.O. has successfully transformed some of the most violent and self-destructive youth into full-blown revolutionary consciousness under the teachings, values and practices of African inter-communalism, he has suffered numerous raids, illegal searches and arrests, brutal confrontations, time in prison and jail, and the kidnapping of family members. This has all been in an attempt to stop his revolutionary leadership from resurrecting the spirit of the Black community.

General T.A.C.O. has sacrificed everything to make revolution a possibility and reality in the poverty-stricken gang injunctions of Amerikkka. He alone has dared to believe that he could offer the community a permanent political vehicle, which would serve their needs and advocate their interests. General T.A.C.O.'s charge for conspiracy, or basically a "thought crime," has been a plot by this racist government's anti-human USA PATRIOT Act and fake Homeland Security counter-terrorism plans, in order to silence the leader of the Black Liberation Movement. This plot will never succeed.

Other comrades have also been targeted

and arrested on trumped-up charges by the L.A.P.D. Comrade Kambui Sadiki, our Minister of Defense, was brutally jumped on by the L.A.P.D. while politically educating the community on Rodeo and Crenshaw. He is now doing time for "trespassing." Many other comrades are also going to trial for numerous charges made up by the pigs.

The Black Riders have proven to be a sign of Black empowerment in their willingness to die defending the people against police terrorism. The BRLP stands against white racist laws and threats in the community. In pushing our "Watch-A-Pig" program, our soldiers and organization have gone through severe repression. The program consists of patrolling the police with law booklets, video cameras, Black karate skills, military uniforms and berets, and other legal weapons, while educating the people on their self-defense rights, and offering our services to people who need a witness against the police in a lawsuit.

A Black Rider has to cope with the life-threatening reality of being hunted and spied upon by federal agents, and being illegally threatened, searched and arrested by racist police officers every day, in order to defend, politically educate, empower and unite our community. Black revolutionaries have always been the most doomed men and women and have always received the most repression. Look at the assassinations of Fred Hampton, Bobby

Hutton, Bunchy Carter and John Huggins, to name just a few. Look at the targeting of the Black Panther Party as "the greatest threat to the internal security of the U.S."

The whole idea of the Watch-A-Pig program is to show the people that resistance is possible. We patrol the pigs at random and link it with our other daily movements doing other dangerous political work like trying to educate and raise the African consciousness of young Black people on the street-corners. The goal is to stop tribalism and black-on-black violence, and create a Black commune where young brothers and sisters can be fed, clothed, educated, militarily trained. There they can be surrounded in a revolutionary African environment, away from the brainwashing capitalist institutions that prey on our youth and trap them into self-destructive mentalities, behaviors and practices.

The racist L.A.P.D. and media have attempted to discredit our organization's efforts by labeling us as a "black terrorist gang," and claiming that we promote violence and racism and disturb the "peace" of the community. But they won't tell you that the first black gangs were created in self-defense against white racist violence in the northern and western states that didn't want to accept the new integration laws.

**Update:** The pre-trial hearing scheduled for January was pushed back for February 15.



Photo of the Black Rider Liberation Party in single file line in 2005.

# Anti-fascist Killed by Neo-Nazi

About one thousand people gathered on 19 January, 2008 in Pilsen, Czech Republic, to remember the victims of nazi terror: 66 years ago, Jews from Pilsen were deported to concentration camps, but nobody knew that another victim of current neo-Nazi violence was at the very same time fighting for his life in a hospital.

On 18 January in Pribram, a town 50 km south-west of Prague, 20-year-old neo-nazi Jiri Fous stabbed 18-year-old Jan Kucera in the groin and back at 11 pm.

Young local neo-Nazis were provoking a group of anti-fascists with Nazi salutes in a pub. A confrontation broke out and reports claim that Jiri Fous - a known fascist - followed the group of anti-fascists when they left the pub. It was at this time when Jan was attacked. Other reports claim the fascist was wearing a SS Nazi uniform when the attack took place.

After the attack, Jan's friends tried fruitlessly to stop the bleeding from his femoral artery and called

for an ambulance. Neither the paramedics nor Jan's friends realized that Jan had also been stabbed in the back. By the time they found the wound, it was too late. Jan had lost massive amounts of blood and fell unconscious. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, but even though he was in the hands of professional doctors, he died on Sunday morning.

Jan Kucera was an anti-fascist skinhead from Pribram, and he was never afraid to express his opinions. In his Internet profile, he wrote: "I'm a normal boy and I consider myself a SHARP skinhead. I don't care who my friends are - I don't judge people because of their musical taste, their clothes or the color of their skin. I judge people by what they do. Anybody can write to me. I hate nazis, the bourgeoisie, communists and similar scum! Anti-fascist Oi!"

He stood by his opinions until the very end. He will stay forever in the hearts of his family, friends, and all people with similar anti-fascist attitude. Honor to his memory.

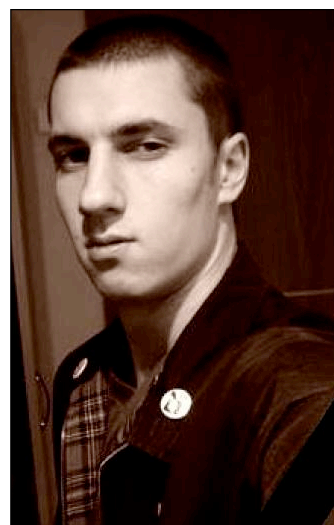


Photo of Jan Kucera

## The Anarchist Subsistence Program

The Anarchist Subsistence Program seeks to provide material aid to those PP/POWs who come from our own anarchist/anti-authoritarian community.

As with the Warchest, this program is designed to aid PP/POWs who receive little financial aid. However, it is unique because it exclusively assists those from the anarchist/anti-authoritarian community.

Over the last few years there has been an increase of anarchist/anti-authoritarian PP/POWs. Most of these new prisoners have support committees who raise awareness and funds on their behalf. Long held anarchist/anti-authoritarian PP/POWs have had their support overshadowed by these new cases. This program is designed to ensure that support for them remains consistent.

The two functions of this support campaign include a monthly financial assistance and forty 41¢ postage stamps per month. Supporters of the Anarchist Subsistence Program send whatever funds they can to Philadelphia

ABC (who facilitates the program) who in turn distributes the funds among anarchist political prisoners who participate in the program. All U.S. supporters also take turns sending the stamps directly to Philadelphia ABC.

Listed here are the monthly check documentation and rotation of groups sending stamps. If you want to support this important program and help us expand the number of Anarchist Subsistence Program campaigns we run, contact Philadelphia ABC. Make checks or money orders out only to: TIM FASNACHT. Funds should be sent in the last week of the month before the month the funds will be used (i.e., send March funds in the 3rd week of February).

### Subsistence Report for 2007

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
NJ/HAYES	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
RYAN/ALSKA	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
EZE/NJ	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0
JAX	0	0	0	20	20	0	0	0
TONY/KS	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHRIS/NJ	0	0	10	10	10	0	10	0
RYAN/ALASKA	0	0	15	15	15	15	15	15
ANNE/JERICHO	0	0	0	0	0	0	160	0
TOTAL	0	50	25	45	45	115	185	15

### Stamp Schedule

Jan- Philadelphia

Feb- Los Angeles

March- Philadelphia

April- Los Angeles

Send a check or money order to Philadelphia ABCF made out to Tim Fasnacht for forty 41¢ stamps in the last week of the month before the month for which you are responsible.

Philadelphia ABCF

P.O Box 42129

Philadelphia, PA 19101

Send cash, checks or money orders made to **TIM FASNACHT** to:

**Philly ABCF**

**P.O Box 42129**

**Philadelphia, PA 19101**

**timABCF@aol.com**

**toll free (877) 673-2658**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

ONE TIME DONATION ☐

MONTHLY SUPPORTER ☐

**Monthly supporters, please check one of the following:**

I'll commit to 6 months ☐ I'll commit to 1 year ☐ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# \$50,000 Raised Through the Warchest Program!

## SUPPORT THE ABCF WARCHEST

The ABCF has initiated a program designed to send monthly checks to PP/POWs who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment. PP/POWs requesting funds complete an application of financial questions. When the ABCF has collected sufficient funds to send out another monthly check, the applications are reviewed by a rotating body of PP/POWs called the Prisoner Committee, who make a judgement on which applicant is in the most financial need. There is also an emergency fund designed to immediately send checks to those PP/POWs in need of one-time or emergency assistance.

Founded in 1994, the Warchest has provided consistent and reliable financial aid, serving a much-neglected comradely function. Since its inception, the ABCF has raised over \$50,000 with just this one program. All funds raised go directly to the political prisoners, for which the program is designed. Despite our success, our comrades are still in dire need of funds. Endorse this program by giving a monthly or one-time donation to increase the number of prisoners being supported monthly. A financial report is published that documents all money received and the prisoner it was sent to. The prisoners' addresses are also printed so that endorsers may write and hold us accountable.



**Send cash, checks or mos made to TIM FASNACHT to:**

**Philly ABCF • P.O Box 42129 • Philadelphia, PA 19101 • [timABCF@aol.com](mailto:timABCF@aol.com)**

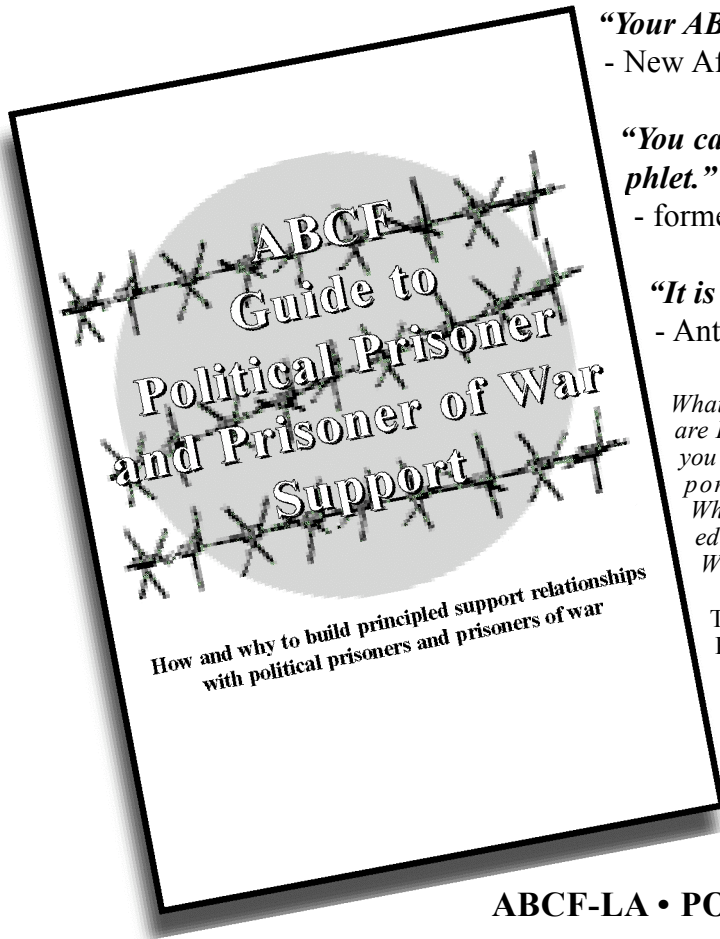
<b>FUNDS IN</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>8-Jan</b>
LA ABCF/RDTW	1850	0
DAN D./ LA RDTW	75	0
PHL ABCF	292	20
JAX ABCF	110	0
NJ ABCF	0	0
CHRIS/NJ	245	0
EZE/NJ	100	0
RYAN/ALSKA	375	25
PROPAGANDI	192	0
JUSTIN/CLEV	120	0
ANON	10	0
JIM/PHILLY	10	0
TONY/KS	25	0
ALEJANDRO	15	0
SHEILA/LA	35	0
SHARON SHOATZ	360	0
BEN B/UK	10	0
DEMIAN S	60	0
PAC (PHOENIX)	80	0
W. MASS. RDTW	372.5	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4312</b>	<b>45</b>

**FUNDS REMAINING: \$3031.50**

<b>FUNDS IN</b>		<b>FUNDS OUT</b>	
1994	351	1994	120
1995	3860	1995	2796
1996	4143	1996	4308
1997	3544	1997	4588
1998	7643	1998	6412
1999	5814	1999	5191
2000	3514	2000	4544
2001	5290	2001	4637
2002	2873	2002	4320
2003	1785	2003	1300
2004	UNACC*	2004	UNACC*
2005	4439	2005	2620
2006	3268	2006	2880
2007	4312	2007	3471
2008	45	2008	300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50881</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47232</b>

<b>FUNDS OUT</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>Jan-08</b>
SEKOU KAMBUI	561	30
RUSSELL SHOATZ	360	30
JOSEPH BOWEN	360	30
HANIFF BEY	360	30
HERMAN BELL	360	30
SEKOU ODINGA	360	30
RUCHELL MAGEE	360	30
ALVARO HERNANDEZ	360	30
MALIKI LATINE	200	30
TSUTOMU SHIROSAKI	90	30
THOMAS MANNING	100	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4312</b>	<b>300</b>

(\*Funds unaccounted for due to unreported funds from Jacksonville ABCF)



***“Your ABCF Guide to PP/POW Support is great, PERIOD!”***

- New Afrikan POW Sundiata Acoli

***“You can see many of our concerns addressed in this pamphlet.”***

- former Puerto Rican POW Carmen Valentin

***“It is extremely well thought out and put together.”***

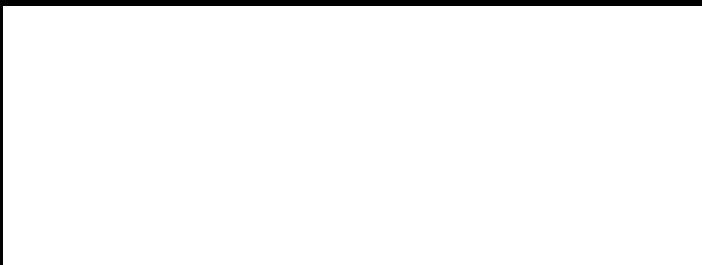
- Anti-Imperialist PP Tom Manning

*What's the ABC? What's the ABCF? Who are Political Prisoners? Who are Prisoners of War? Where are they? Why make a criteria? What do you mean by 'documentation' and how do I get it? What kinds of support do Political Prisoners need? How should I go about my work? What can PP/POWs get in prison? What do I need to know if I want to visit? Can I bring them food packages? What about clothes? What do you mean by 'principled support'? How do I get involved?*

This is a practical guide compiled by Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War themselves, based on concrete history and work experience. It will help answer all of the above questions and more. The ABCF guide to PP/POW includes definitions that were democratically agreed upon at an international tribunal, specific procedures for obtaining documentation on PP/POW's, information on visiting, phone contact, food/clothing packages, and the working policies of the ABCF in our work to support PP/POW's. Send \$1 and two stamps to:

**ABCF-LA • PO Box 11223 • Whittier, CA • 90603**

**LA-ABCF  
Branch Group  
PO Box 11223  
Whittier, CA 90603**



***“This work is not done for glory, but because we believe in mutual aid.”***