



SUPPORT ANTIFASCIST PRISONERS

The International Anti-Fascist Defence Fund provides direct, immediate support to anti-fascists and anti-racists anywhere in the world, whenever they find themselves in a difficult situation as a result of their stand against hate. Whether it's replacing damaged/stolen property, paying medical bills, helping them find a safe place to stay, funding legal defence, helping their families, or doing antifa prisoner support, this Fund seeks to alleviate the harm that results from doing the right thing sometimes.

Since 2015 The International Anti-Fascist Defence Fund has donated more than \$125,000USD to over 600 anti-fascists in 22 countries!

Anyone can make a proposal to support an anti-fascist/anti-racist by emailing us at: antifaintl@gmail.com

We depend on donations to do our work and can accept monthly recurring donations or one-time donations via Patreon, Stripe, or by credit card. Any group or individual that donates more than \$20US/€20/£15 will be invited to help make decisions on proposals the Fund receives. To donate: <https://intlantifadefence.wordpress.com/donate/>

The International Anti-Fascist Defence Fund is a great way to show real solidarity with anti-fascists and anti-racists worldwide when they need our support the most!



N: I'm one of three or four of us who check up on contact@freedavidcampbell.org. We've used that email to announce initial updates immediately after fundraising, as well as on the letter writing and call-in campaigns to get David and his incarcerated peers the necessary PPE in the first phases of the novel coronavirus pandemic. We maintain a list of emails who we blast to for such things. Defense committees seem to benefit highly from 1) a clear way of getting a political prisoner's immediate needs met once inside, 2) a clear and consistent means of staying in contact with supporters, 3) a centralized source of information which includes updated mailing address, rules and regulations for what can be mailed, background on the case, updates, means of contact, etc. In our case freedavidcampbell.com was crucial. We hardly had to use social media because we maintained direct contact with supporters who got in touch with us through the website. It's important to remember that social media isn't the only way to reach sympathetic people for support.

What would you suggest for people facing charges who aren't connected to the radical community in their area?

David: They should definitely get and read the Tilted Scales Collective's Tilted Guide to Being a Defendant, (AK Press, 2017). If they know anybody at all in the radical community, they should reach out and hope that they can point them in the right direction. There will probably also be large-scale defense committees like the one for J20 (more info can be found [here](#)), but for people who don't have that option for whatever reason, I'd say form a defense committee with friends or acquaintances you trust, who show good judgement.

Anything that surprised you?

David: Just how well everyone worked together and how patient and giving everyone was, even offering up their homes for meeting places on the regular. Maybe I should've known that when they said they were there for me, they meant it, but it was still surprising in a good way.

Anything else to add?

David: Just know that if you're scared and facing charges, people will show up out of nowhere to take care of you!

remember some back and forth on whether to describe David as more normie or more radical in his politics.

N: We spent a great deal of time going back and forth among one another about how the world should see David, depending on whose support we thought we could get. Should we appeal more to liberals or radicals? Who are these people and what makes them sympathetic or not? That seemed to be a major subject of debate that was resolved with David's best interests and his own input in mind. We always default to what David wants to do, because it is always his decision, but that doesn't mean we couldn't spend a lot of time working through an issue together as a group. Thankfully it seems like the disagreements about that didn't happen too much on the sidelines and in gossip, and stayed entirely internal to people within the committee.

Is it ever ethical to mediate how David or other political prisoners want to represent themselves to the world once they're inside?

N: No. Never. Sometimes a political prisoner has their communications cut off to the outside world, and the defense committee's primary responsibility once something like that happens is NOT putting words in their mouth, but to call out as the defense committee for support in the form of an anti-repression campaign.

DIO: I think how political prisoners represent themselves once they're inside (and before they go inside) should be their choice, and theirs alone. I think it is fine to offer advice if you have experience and knowledge to share, but it should be up to the individual doing the time to represent themselves how they see fit.

Do you maintain any infrastructure for the committee? JPay/commissary, email address, website, etc? What should a new defense committee make sure to have? How did you delegate responsibility?

DIO: Yes, email and website. Between myself and one other member, we've had plenty of resources to maintain the website and monitoring the emails is split amongst even more of the team. Delegating responsibility for these was a matter of folks volunteering to take on that work.

A new defense committee should definitely have both of these things, and if possible, some social media accounts, if they expect the defendant to serve time. Email, website, and social media are each pretty large tasks, especially in the weeks leading up to sentencing, and shortly after. Make sure you have enough folks to handle these tasks, at the very least three.

July 25 - The International Day of Solidarity with Antifascist Prisoners

Since the first July 25th International Day of Solidarity with Antifascist Prisoners, the worldwide struggle against the nightmare of fascism and the far-right has grown and intensified.

Even though the face of national governments may change from explicitly fascist to democratic neoliberalism, we continue to fight racism, the demonization of refugees and migrants, and mobilize opposition to organized fascist and far-right groups. While the bigoted, nationalist imagination reproduces itself on a global scale, it also attempts to turn us all into prisoners of the border.

History

The International Day of Solidarity with Antifascist Prisoners originated in 2014 as a Day of Solidarity with Jock Palfreeman—an Australian man serving a 20-year sentence in Bulgaria for defending two Romani men from an attack by fascist football hooligans. Happily, Palfreeman has been granted parole after serving 11 years of his sentence, but there are still hundreds of others who remain imprisoned for standing up against fascism and hate.

That's why July 25th is so important; the International Day of Solidarity with Antifascist Prisoners aims to break down the borders and build an international response against fascism. By having an event, raising money, or dedicating an action to these comrades, we can simultaneously strengthen our local movements by ensuring that those who have acted to protect our communities against the fascist threat are never forgotten, as well as create the links of a powerful international solidarity which can transcend both the prison and the border wall.

In 2021, Antifa International and the International Antifascist Defence Fund will be organizing and promoting campaigns and events around The International Day of Solidarity with Antifascist Prisoners. This July 25th, 2021 we call on antifascists worldwide to act in solidarity with antifascist prisoners—the comrades who have been behind bars for many years, the friends who have just begun their sentences, the mates still awaiting trial—because they are in there for us, and so we must be out here for them!

How to Write a Letter to Someone in Prison

from NYC Anarchist Black Cross (nycabc.wordpress.com)

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

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

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

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

WHAT TO WRITE

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

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

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

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

GUIDELINES

You cannot enclose glitter or write with glittery gel pens or puff paint pens. Some prisons do not allow cards or letters that include permanent

How did the committee find people to come pack the court?

M: David has had such an impressive and wide array of supporters throughout this entire process. It was amazing to see and definitely warmed my heart. I think the work we did as a defense committee helped many others find digestible updates and concrete ways to support such as showing up for court dates. On the day of sentencing, our side of the court room was filled with people who called out "We love you, David" as he was escorted away.

N: Since David was part of a larger political community, it was relatively easy to pull people from that community who could come for the most important court dates. Otherwise, we ourselves would be the only ones present. There were many court dates at inconvenient times that were not as high stakes, so less people were needed during those.

Were there ever any conflicts within the committee? If so, why did they happen and were they resolved well? If not, what about the group dynamic do you think prevented conflict?

DIO: I don't remember any conflicts coming up. Having David as a singular focus didn't seem to leave room for much else, and everyone was just committed to helping in any way they could.

M: None that I am aware of. I think we all got along well from the start, some of us already knew each other from organizing circles, but some of us met for the first time through this committee for David. Everyone is so smart and talented and dedicated to both this cause and the general well being of David that we were always able to talk through our decisions and arrive at a consensus. Not only did we work well together, but also, it never felt like work to meet.

N: We didn't have conflicts to the degree that other political projects might have had historically, ones that result in relationships torn and work neglected and such. Our dynamic was very easy and flexible, which I think in large part was intentional. We spent a lot of time and energy making meals together and things like that, but many of us also maybe retained a certain distance which allowed us to focus crucially on the tasks at hand. We are also a decently wide mix of David's friends, and his brother, but mostly political community.

Were there any disagreements about the narrative around David's case? How did they resolve?

DIO: Others could probably speak to this better than I could, but I do

history well, connections to the anarchist community. Our group also has social workers/therapists, one person who has done time and is in their third year of law school, techies, and my brother, who I was able to toss around my craziest ideas and deepest concerns with.

DIO: My day job is programming so I was happy to use those skills for something that directly benefits someone I care about.

M: I think the beauty of this committee is that we all brought such different but compatible skill sets to the table. Maybe that is why he asked us all to come together. We had care workers, friends, comrades, experienced organizers with specialized knowledge in things such as the law or skills related to technology and web design. Everyone is so smart, organized, and dedicated to the cause. It never felt like labor to support our friend.

I am a social worker working as a therapist in my field. This was my first time being a part of a defense committee, let alone such an efficient and successful one. I took on smaller tasks, such as making phone calls, ordering books and mailing legal pads. I suppose I used my background in the sense of trying to provide consistent emotional support to David. That felt important to me.

What were the most successful fundraising efforts? Least successful?

DIO: Fundraising through our networks proved to be really effective and we quickly raised enough money to support David's commissary. We also had a comrade, not part of the committee, put on a punk show to collect donations which was also very successful. We haven't had to do any other fundraising besides that.

M: The punk show for his post-release fund made a lot of money, and was amazing to see. The call for regular monthly donations through our website brought in a great deal of funds to help us manage his commissary needs and more. People have really showed up for David, and I think that says a lot about who he is as a person, and the fact that he has always shown up for others in the community.

N: From my perspective, the most money seemed to have come in the lead-up to and immediate aftermath of the sentencing. A lot of people came to the court that day, and became connected by giving us their contact info, such that so many of those people who felt directly connected (friends, family, community) were the ones to contribute the most. Not too sure if I could speak on the least successful.

marker, crayon, or colored pencils and it is best to check with the prisoner beforehand. That said, it is usually best to write in standard pencil or non-gel pen in blue or black ink.

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

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

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

A couple of technical details– make sure you include your return address inside the letter as well as on the envelope. It's common for prisoners to receive letters without the envelope.

Make sure to paginate– number each page, such as 1 of 3, 2 of 3, et cetera. This insures that if pages of your letter don't make it to the prisoner, they will know it.

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

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

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

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

STAYING SAFE

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

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

The FBI may threaten you with a grand-jury subpoena for not talking. It doesn't matter because they were probably going to subpoena you anyway and you weren't going to talk anyway.

If you receive a grand jury subpoena you should contact a lawyer immediately and let others in your community know. People can be held for up to 18 months (potentially longer) for refusing to talk to grand juries. Even so, for our own survival, it is imperative that we take that risk and do not participate in grand juries as they are used to indict political prisoners and prisoners of war.

In the federal legal system, the grand jury is used to decide whether someone should be charged ("indicted") for a serious crime. The grand jury hears evidence presented by the prosecutor: the U.S. Attorney. The grand jury uses subpoenas to gather this evidence. It can subpoena documents, physical evidence, and witnesses to testify. The "special" federal grand jury, created in 1970, can be used to investigate "possible" organized criminal activity rather than a specific crime.

Currently there is more than one active grand jury in New York City. There are also more than likely informants and agent provocateurs infiltrating anarchist communities here.

It is imperative that we continue our work as anarchists including the support of political prisoners and prisoners of war towards the abolition of the state, of capitalism, and of all oppression.

It is also imperative that we do so in a way that is smart, strategic, and sustainable.

need doing moment to moment. Some things I've worked on since David's incarceration include: transcription and research for David's translation work, tabling at a fundraiser, helping move some of David's possessions into storage, researching NYC's completely opaque COVID-19 release policy, and compiling and contacting a list of supporters to advocate for David's early release due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I think laying the groundwork for supporting David in the event of his incarceration early on allowed the committee to more easily respond to unanticipated needs—big and small—as they arose.

DIO: Now I maintain the website. I post updates when I get them from David, and make any and all changes the committee wants.

Carmichael: Now I answer some of the emails, forward letters to him, or scan his letters and email them to their destinations. I've been scanning a book that he's translating; others are doing the transcription and editing, it's great that we have a big team. I helped run the visitation calendar for a while and I talked to media and other prisoner support groups when we were advocating for his release (and a general release) when the pandemic began. Since Covid shut down visitations, I no longer help coordinate that calendar or visit regularly, I just try to send a lot of mail and do televisitation when I can. We're starting to think about what he'll need when he gets out, I think that's 99 days from today.

M: I used to make it to Rikers once a month if not more, just to make sure he had consistent visits. Now, I wait excitedly for his phone calls and schedule monthly televisits just to see how he is doing. He has playfully told me I have written too many letters to respond to, but also it is important to make sure he has regular mail. I also work on transcribing the book he is translating. With so much going on, that is at least something to do that selfishly helps me feel useful in some small way. We have also worked on various call-in campaigns for him and I have made countless phone calls to Rikers and the DOC on his behalf (at one point being chastised by the DOC for calling over fifteen times to advocate for him on a specific issue).

N: Mostly just staying in touch! Occasionally responsibilities become apparent to the group that need to be taken up, maybe such as putting this document together, but we prepared very intentionally and very well before the beginning of David's sentence such that the vast majority of the work has to do with maintaining the project itself.

What sort of strengths and skills do people bring to the group?

David: Patience, level-headedness, knowing me well, knowing radical

exceptional and skilled group members, but felt I could always offer my time and support.

N: I would mostly attend court dates and research circumstances of the arrest, thinking a lot about the narrative that should be forwarded to the larger world that would result in the most lenient sentencing. I also organized a couple of our meetings. The work picked up much more once he was inside. There were always at least about a dozen of us, so many hands made little work, except for that work which required some expertise (website design, legal knowledge, etc.).

What does support look like now?

David: Keeping my commissary account full with money from their continued fundraising efforts, visiting me regularly and organizing a visiting schedule for others, helping first-time visitors through the process, taking my calls at all hours of the day [which was necessary because of the limited access to phone calls, only two every three hours], writing me letters and forwarding my international mail and messages from the website, speaking to the media and just generally being awesome. They also stay in touch with my lawyer, send me any clothes, books or other materials I might request, and manage the website, including posting my updates. They've also helped immensely with a translation project I'm working on. Since the pandemic hit, they've invested a huge amount of time into trying to get me out, including organizing call-in and email campaigns.

T: After David's sentencing, I was one of several people bottom-lining David's visitation schedule and corresponding with visitors. Rikers has an absurd visit system, so this definitely needed some upkeep, particularly in the beginning when people were still figuring out how everything worked. Once COVID-19 hit NYC, all visits were suspended indefinitely. The new video visits require less upkeep, mostly because the seemingly random video visit process is impossible to coordinate.

Prior to COVID-19, I was also responsible for printing and forwarding letters to David that we received through the support site, as well as forwarding David's international correspondence. Due to unanticipated circumstances related to COVID-19, this responsibility has since been taken on by another committee member.

Though these two roles were what I originally volunteered to take on prior to David's incarceration, there are always new circumstances and new needs. I think this defense committee has been very skilled and efficient in responding to changing circumstances and taking on whatever tasks

What It Looks Like To Be Antifascist In Prison

by Eric King, October 2017

What does it look like to be antifascist in federal prison in 2017? It may not be what you think.

If you picture coming into the feds with your fist swinging, taking on every racist, swastika wearing trash you see, that is not a reality. That line of thinking will get us nowhere. Racism at the federal level is very real and played out in a very archaic way. At CCA Leavenworth I pictured going into ANY spot guns blazing, taking on bigots in a very macho, aggressive, violent way. At CCA that was actually somewhat doable, even at Englewood-FCI (low security) it was somewhat a reality because you could dog them out and clown them for their ridiculousness... the reality is though, that the higher up in custody you go and the further west coast you end up, the more serious the game gets and the less likely you are to be able to express your own antifascist ideas without facing some serious backlash.

Everything is racially divided here. Where you eat, when you work out, where you sit, what TV you watch, who cuts your hair, who you live with, who you play games with. For me this was super difficult at first because it felt like a betrayal of who I was. There isn't any bucking this, it's shitty and gross but it's real and VERY serious. No one is going to make an exception and disrupt prison order for the one anti-racist. Having good politics doesn't make you exceptional or above the others. Being antifascist doesn't make you a teacher, a preacher, a savior, this horrendous system will not make room for our differing beliefs. You will hear all day long people bashing every race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, and nationality, everything that isn't white-American-straight-male. I had to learn very quickly how to bite my tongue. Calling people out will get you nowhere but hurt. If your beliefs and views are known, that provides more weapons for the maggots to use against you, and some will without a doubt use them. I got called up for this MANY times. I have the word ANTIFA tattooed on my face. I've had to learn how to NEVER take the bait, to keep your ideas to yourself and those you are close with. At the end of the day bro-ing out does less than taking conscious action. I've been very lucky that early on some old heads took a liking to me. It's a very thin line between being tolerated and being battered. Screaming, "kill whitey!" and flipping off Trump, expressing yourself, these small things and big things will catch you some wreck, meaning these bigots will beat you off the yard. The other non-racist whites will NOT risk helping you, the other

racers won't want to start a race war that gets hundreds hurt to help this one person. Then the folks that get hurt are the folks you are trying to support. There have been times where my ideas got me in a lot of trouble; very many confrontations and disciplining. We must learn how to walk that line of being true to yourself without putting yourself or others in a situation where you're getting transferred, getting put in the hospital, put in the secure housing unit, or SHU. We will never end the fascism of and within the prison walls and system without dancing in the ashes of the prisons. You must keep yourself alive and safe, it is crucial to return to your loved ones and your community.

With all that said, there are always ways to be you, even if they are more coy or low key than you are used to or prefer. Sometimes just not laughing along to some racist bullshit or agreeing with a horrible comment can say more than any argument or fist could. I have through time found my own way to fight against the racist PSYOP system masterminded by the prison itself. I have found it is important to constantly be conscious and consider the consequences for others when taking actions. In prison with minimal effort your actions can start a race war. And your actions hurt the folks that you are trying to support. Being anti-fascist for me often looks like respectfully removing myself from any political conversation. Socializing and taking classes taught by folks of other races and allowing that to be a moment to connect and engage in dialogue. For me standing up can mean teaching yoga that includes all people. Sometimes offering a jacket or sweater or raising commissary funds for someone who is openly gay and being cast out and harassed is a stand that effects the entire dynamic of the unit. Sometimes it means having the ability to give basic supplies to non-racist white guys coming in so that they don't have to take them from the white supremacists. Sometimes it is playing games with other races. Or putting my ego and politics away and letting people of other races vent around me without trying to explain their anger or emotions to them. Being political and antifa does not give me space to try to be their teacher. I sit with Muslims in the library and have my political conversations there (a lot of whites do not like this). My partner drives up to visits with people of other races, forming that unity and solidarity. I recognize a lot of these things may not even be allowed at other spots, or may not even be a big deal at all, but here they allow me to make a big stand against the white race politics. I still read radical books and zines, but I do it in my room, where I do MY time, away from people who live on confrontations, who are addicted to static.

If you put yourself out there verbally, be prepared to stand on it (fight) because you will be challenged and if you're lucky it'll be one on one. Small things that happen instinctively can get you in a jam, so it's smart to always be mindful. I've been in jams for laughing at sunken Navy ships, for

What sort of actions did people take while you were still fighting the case? What were you responsible for?

David: They were constantly checking in to see how I was doing and meeting up to socialize so I felt less alone. People researched all kinds of random stuff that might help, researched facilities I might be sent to if sentenced, kept an ear to the ground for news that might affect the way my case was handled. We even met with my lawyer, with their consent of course. The defense committee ensured that someone was handling fundraising, media stuff, online presence (including buying a domain in advance in case I ended up doing time). They put me in touch with a radical therapist, a sympathetic journalist, a half-dozen former political prisoners (including one who'd done time at the facility I was ultimately sent to), self-defense and meditation trainers, all of which were enormously helpful. They also took time off from work and school to show up in support at my court appearances, helped me move and store my stuff before I went in, and packed the courtroom on the day I was sentenced.

T: Because the tasks I volunteered to bottom-line would only begin in the event of David's incarceration, the actions I took while David was still fighting the case mostly included showing up to defense committee meetings and court dates. After the court dates, a group of us would usually go to a nearby coffee shop to decompress, debrief, and hang out for a bit. Afterwards, one of us, usually David, would send a summary of the court proceedings to our defense committee signal loop.

DIO: My primary responsibility was technical support. I built the website and set-up various email accounts for the committee to use.

Carmichael: When he was still fighting the case we did research on where he might be taken and what kind of sentence he might have, we raised some money for him, and talked a lot about hypotheticals and questions: would we sublet his room, could he defer doing his taxes, could he travel beforehand, could he travel after, would it be better to do a short amount of time with a long probation or a longer time with no probation...we were there for emotional support and to help grapple with these questions. I like to host and cook for everyone, I did some of that back then. The most important thing is to show up for people even if you don't have the skills to do more. I'm not a lawyer but I could help with things his lawyers couldn't.

M: I think I took on more of an emotional support role during this time. I would meet with David regularly to hang out and talk about how he was doing. I wasn't always sure how to be most useful with so many

N: We'd talk through the issues of the week, and decide who would be responsible for what by the end of it. Only about once did we ever have a meeting where David was absent before he got taken in. It was also important to spend time with one another that was based on having fun and hanging out, maybe over drinks or with a board game or something.

T: We would discuss potential legal and media strategies and possible outcomes. We also planned for the possibility of David's incarceration. Though we very much hoped this would not be the ultimate outcome, we wanted to be well prepared so we would not be left scrambling at the last minute. The preparatory work included, but was not limited to: setting up a support website (including a statement on David's case, visitation info, a form to submit letters, a list of topics David would be interested in corresponding about, a list of books David would be interested in receiving, etc.), planning fundraising efforts and setting up the necessary financial infrastructure, making a plan for facilitating visits, and thinking about how to support David post-release. We made sure that each necessary task had one or more bottom-liners.

For the weeks immediately following sentencing, the committee met frequently as we navigated the specifics of supporting David throughout his incarceration. We reported back on our experiences visiting David at Rikers, noting any problems that we encountered so we could relay this information to future visitors. Following this initial burst of activity, we transitioned to meeting monthly over dinner or drinks to check in and discuss any significant actions, such as fundraising efforts, but most of our work took place over our Signal loop. After COVID-19 hit NYC, we had one video meeting to plan our efforts to get David released from Rikers. Otherwise, we've continued to coordinate over our Signal loop.

DIO: We'd get updates on whatever tasks had been completed and determine what still needed to be done. We'd make sure every task has a bottom-liner so nothing fell through the cracks.

Carmichael: Before he was taken into custody we did a lot of hypothetical planning, not knowing for a long time whether or not he'd even have to do time. Once he was in, we divided up the work that needed to be done and met a lot less. Now because of Covid we don't meet at all but we talk every day by Signal.

M: They were long, but organized and smooth meetings. The bulk of our work was really leading up to David's incarceration. We still have people who bottom-line specific things and that have for a while, so there is less of a need for regular, more formal, meetings.

watching soccer with the Mexicans, for letting a Gay-Black cat in my yoga class... the things that you do by nature may ruffle a lot of feathers, so we need to be prepared to get called into the cell and defend your actions.

The problems that society faces are magnified in prison. Racism, homophobia, violence, are all very accepted and normalized. Being antifascist in prison means putting yourself in a disruptive position. It can mean some lonely times, limited friendships and being isolated and disrespected. How you carry it is up to every individual person and situation. Keeping yourself self-safe is the number one priority. Doing your time and being true to yourself.

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Eric is currently under a mail ban, meaning he can not receive mail at this time. To stay updated on Eric King and the status of his mail ban, head over to his support website **supportericking.org**

Letter From Imprisoned U.S. Antifascist Dan Baker

July 2021

Daniel Baker is a social justice activist, YPG veteran, certified yoga instructor, and 6 time goldmedal winner in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. He uses these practices to overcome personal hardships and to offer valuable community service, especially to the most marginalized members of society.

Dan was arrested on January 15th, 2021 for alleged social media posts calling for Tallahassee residents to utilize their Second Amendment rights to protect their neighbors in the event that Donald Trump's violent incitement of an armed coup came to pass on Inauguration Day. He is currently locked up in a U.S. federal prison awaiting sentencing after being convicted of two federal counts of threatening to injure.

Dear Comrades,

Revolutionary greetings and regards! May you all be healthy, happy and peaceful! Unless, of course, an innocent is in danger – then may you all be moved to action. If you stand for something you're gonna have some enemies – and if you stand for equity, civil rights, gender equality, queer and trans liberation, women's liberation, antifascism, anti-imperialism, anti-colonialism and anti-capitalism in the face of the military & prison industrial complexes then the United States of America will view you as an enemy, regardless of how much you love the motherland, people, plants and animals.

I write to you from the dungeons of Gilead, FDC Tallahassee, until my sentencing, when I'll be sent somewhere else. Please write to me – I could always be replying to letters here in "Special Housing Unit", isolation for militant political prisoners. I have no criminal record prior to these "trumped" up charges – pun intended. I attracted so much fear from these fascists because I am ex-military and a YPG combat veteran (google Vice News "Inside ISIS' Final Fight" and Murray Bookchin while you're at it). After 5 years of receiving death threats from Nazis I was accused of "threatening to kidnap or injure" people online because I posted a flyer encouraging people to defend their state capital from insurrectionists after January 6th. Then the FBI kidnapped me at gun point and I've been in prison, even pre-trial, for 6 months, now awaiting sentencing after a kangaroo court.

Prison mental health staff practice victim blaming and coordinate with turnkey guards to cover up abuses.

DIO: I had known David for a while before the arrest. We lived in the same neighborhood and would work together on various street actions. When David was arrested I was on the scene providing jail support. It seemed obvious to me that I would continue to provide support throughout his case, whatever the outcome, so I did.

Carmichael: I already knew David for about a year before he was arrested, we met in an ultimately sidelined effort to organize neighborhood response teams to address xenophobic and Islamophobic harassment that was becoming more obvious during Trump's election campaign. It turned out we were neighbors, and we saw each other at a lot of other political organizing meetings and low-key anti-ICE actions.

I had been involved in prisoner support through NYC Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) letter writing events, Metropolitan Coordinating Council (MACC) legal, and J20 defense, and I've had friends go to prison before. So I of course wanted to do anything I could to help when David needed a support committee. And I was livid to hear he'd not only been arrested at a protest but had his leg badly broken by the police.

M: David approached me and asked if I would be willing to join. I was so flattered to be considered and accepted immediately. Prior to this, we did a few group dinners and drinks for him and I think that helped him to feel supported.

N: I was in very loose proximity to David's arrest and the circumstances surrounding it. I knew the people who started the defense committee and was invited into it. I didn't know what a defense committee really was before joining, only that it's something that had been done for political prisoners in the past to facilitate fundraising and letter writing, etc.

What did a normal defense committee meeting look like before sentencing?

David: We'd usually meet at someone's house, maybe with some snacks, drinks, or sometimes a full-blown dinner. I'd bring everyone up to speed about my case, if there were any new developments – what my lawyer had told me, what the prosecutor had told them, possible outcomes and time frames, when the next court date was and what it was for. Others would report back about the various things they were working on. One person would take notes in a shared doc. Before we broke, we'd make sure there was someone to bottom-line each action item, and set the date, time, and place of our next meeting. Meetings usually lasted about one and a half hours.

Stronger Than Their Bars: An Interview with David Campbell's Support Committee

January 26th, 2021

David Campbell is an anti-fascist activist and former anti-fascist political prisoner who served 12 months at Rikers Island in New York. Here, David and a few other members of the Defense Committee reflect on the committee, with the intention of sharing lessons and possibilities from lived experience with those facing down terrifying charges and those who want to support them. This conversation began with a letter received from David in June 2020, when he was serving the last third of his sentence. The responses of the other Defense Committee members were compiled shortly after. You can find out more about who David is and why he was incarcerated here.

This interview has been lightly edited for length and clarity.

How did the Defense Committee form?

David: It happened kinda naturally because I already knew some people in the anarchist scene. A lot of people were reaching out to me after my arrest to see how I was doing and if I needed help with stuff like laundry and groceries, since my leg was broken when I was arrested, so I couldn't really get around. People would come by to visit too, and one time a bunch of people came over and we cooked and ate a big dinner together. That turned into a regular thing and when my case started heating up a few months later and the idea to form a defense committee came up, that group formed the core of the defense committee. I asked each person individually if they'd be down to help me navigate my court case and tried to convey that it was totally OK for them to say no or take time off later, since it could be a lot of work. Everyone I asked said yes, which was super cool. I asked a few older, more experienced activists we knew, my brother, and a close friend of 15 years (neither of whom are anarchists) to join as well. Later, a couple others joined, including my therapist and my best friend growing up.

T: Before David's arrest, I knew David in passing through anarchist circles—we were friendly but not yet friends. After he was arrested and injured by the police, a small group of us reached out to David and offered to come by his apartment to have a little potluck dinner. I think these kinds of small acts of support can go a long way in building relationships and trust. A few months later, David asked us if we would be part of his defense committee, and we all agreed.

Here in prison it is illegal to organize a union. Since I arrived guards have attempted to withhold vegetarian food, threatened to have me killed, beat and raped, and have actively encouraged inmates to kill themselves. The southern crackers here flaunt face masks, showing up visibly sick. I got the vaccine. One inmate here has been in isolation for over a year, awaiting trial – but he's totally insane, unfit to stand trial. His name is Jordan Proctor and the prison staff have bragged that their plan is to keep him here until he either dies slowly or commits suicide. He screams and kicks his door all night – because they leave his light on 24/7. He is stuck in a loop and repeats the same sentences consistently. The guards said this is punishment for “assaulting an officer” “rather than”, and I quote, “getting him sent somewhere to get the help he needs. They beat him at least once a month, sometimes throwing C.S. gas into his cell before hand. Saddaam used C.S. gas on the Kurds in Iraq. But things have improved since letters began to pour in, and my friends formed a Defense Committee – guards have backed down after googling me and seeing consequences for abusing inmates. Overall, despite guards flaccid attempts at intimidation, gaslighting and isolation, solidarity and resistance have improved conditions. I've been through worse than this, and the fire in my heart, one spark in the bonfire of our collective dreams, burns bright, keeping us warm and strong!

As I write this Proctor is screaming and breaking his bones against his door and throwing his waste around his cell. The guards weaponize him against the sane inmates as a threat – “this could be you.”

I've learned so much over the last 5 years. I marched against Richard Spencer – and was there when Nazi shouted “Hail Hitler” and shot at my friends (google Dan Baker Gainesville Nazi shooting). I went to Rojava to join the Revolution and defend them from ISIS. From these experiences I learned that truly evil people with guns will fucking kill you and those who are precious to you – if you don't fight back. So you might as well bring guns. The armed ladies in Rojava, the YPJ women's army that fights jihadis on the front lines, taught me about feminism. They told me that “all slavery is based on house-wivisation” and showed me how deeply indoctrinated I am in the patriarchal oppression of women. Every day we must struggle and push ourselves to grow and become militant personalities. The great deities of war are women, like Athena. But patriarchy tries to tell us that she was born from Zeus' head – after he ate his pregnant wife, Hera. Stories like this are attempts to clip the wings of powerful women, the Mother Goddess of ancient matriarchal society, in which women invented much of what now binds society together – plant cultivation, medicine, rituals of seasons and the very concept of “home.” This is why we see witches fly – and why the patriarchy burned witches. We are the descendants of the witches they could not burn.

In Rojava I also learned about communal living, social ecology, direct democracy, and how Americans are viewed worldwide – with our supposed “exceptionalism”, our “rugged individualism” and our “great modern lifestyles.” IN reality we are a laughing stock to every practical, hard worker internationally – we are like little spoiled babies, difficult to get along with, domesticated and arrogant. One of the most important things I learned in Rojava is criticism – receiving it, giving it and offering self criticism, every single day, as a group. I encourage you, the reader, as my dear comrade, to offer me criticisms, to gather 4 or 5 friends daily, even online, to discuss daily events then give, receive and offer self criticism! Don't just say the words – make real changes in your thought patterns, your actions and your character. Push yourself and your friends. If you don't criticize me then you don't care about me. For example there is now a Great Drought, the New Dust Bowl is coming with climate change – so practice water conservation at home. Plant trees and edible gardens instead of lawns, to better trap water and top soil in the ecosystem right where you are. Meet with neighbors and move in with like-minded allies. Then create projects, feeding each other, the homeless and the poor, planting community gardens, guerilla gardens and reading clubs. Study Abdullah Ocalan, Silvia Federici, Vandana Shiva, Friedrich Engels, Murray Bookchin and Emma Goldman. Realize that by taking matters into your own hands you legitimize yourself, take responsibility and delegitimize corrupt politicians.

For a guide on how to do this, read “Make Rojava Green Again” by the Internationalist Commune of Rojava.

We have a duty to fight for freedom, and we must be willing and able to win. But even in the face of overwhelming odds there is a wild joy in knowing a brave act may be your last. History, Herstory, will remember you. Help bring a new world into being, spread its vision: a free, feminist, ecological, radically democratic society. Be sensitive deep in your heart, to any injustice, anywhere. That is the most beautiful characteristic of a Revolutionary. You are the hop, you will save the world! We are winning. Create many Rojavas! You can do something for the environment right away – pick up trash in your community, every day. It's necessary to combine the fight for the environment with the struggle for a general social revolution. People are naturally warm-hearted, the spirit being consciousness and bliss, nature made self aware! Raise your voice against racism and sexism every day, the moment you encounter it – I send you all my love, strength and courage. I empower you to take a stand – we share a rich heritage, worldwide. The ancient Daoists, the Russian Anarchists, Vietnam, Australia's Indigenous, the American Indigenous resistance, the Zapatistas, the witches, the Paris Communes and Barricades, Black Panthers, Greek Anarchists, Puerto Rican freedom fighters, British punk

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Chernov Andrey Sergeevich, 1989

The individuals locked up in The Network Case in Russia can only receive mail in Russian.



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Vasiliy Alekseevich Kuksov, 1988

The individuals locked up in The Network Case in Russia can only receive mail in Russian.



people. My behavior, my mistakes, my action and my views and aims made me what I am now. That's what makes our lives interesting, full as they are of happiness and pain, of light and dark. All the more often now, I realise that I took the road leading in the necessary direction. When I see those who hate me – Nazis, propagandists, Chekists [i.e. those in the Russian security services], thugs – and those who support me – the defenders of Shiyes, musicians, artists, political prisoners, teachers, people from my town, comrades all over the world, family and loved ones – I understand that I am on the right side, the bright side. And that understanding justifies, in many ways, the road I have taken, which is short but from which I have drawn definite conclusions and ideas.

What's there to say about life? That it turned out to be long.

Only with grief do I feel solidarity.

But whilst my mouth is not yet packed with clay,

It'll only resound with gratitude

(Iosif Brodsky.)

Q: Finally, I would ask you to formulate some sort of phrase or slogan that in the current situation helps you to overcome all the difficulties and to believe that justice will soon be achieved.

When I write that good will prevail, I don't have in mind worldwide peace, however much I would like that. The point is that good prevails every day, thanks to sincere, good people. Good prevails when doctors save people's lives, when people adopt a child from an orphanage, when a taxi-driver saves a demonstrator from sadists with truncheons, when eco-activists defend forests from destruction, when political prisoners are released in court, when human rights defenders protect prisoners from torture, when solidarity and love make us smile, and make us believe that we are not alone, that we are together and that we will win. Good will prevail!

rock, the I.R.A., Cuba, Venezuela, Jewish anti-fascists and Palestinian protestors, Black Liberation Movement, YPG & YPJ and the International Volunteers – that's all us, and there's more every day. Make your own group!

Recently the Keystone XL Pipeline was defeated – I congratulate our comrades on this victory! Keep up the great work! I admire the prisoners fighting the Mountain Valley Pipeline – Molly, Wren, Robin and the rest – you are my heroes and heroines and you have earned my respect. I extend solidarity with the Plowshares 7 doing time for their hard work. As a result of the murder of George Floyd and the necessary uprisings over 40,000 comrades have been arrested, many for the first time, like myself. That's just in the U.S.A.. In Greece many powerful Anarchists are on hunger strike. In Turkey many Kurds are facing unspeakable abuses in prison in the face of continued ethnic cleansing. For Kurds in Turkey the situation is so grim that they've turned to hunger strikes – to the death, and self immolation. I stand with Eric King, also in solitary, David Campbell, Dr. Scott Warren, Gage Halupowski, Jeremy Hammond, Joseph Dibee, Antoine Riggins, David Gilbert, Joy Powell, Joseph Dole, Paul Lacombe, Jaan Laaman and the Ohio 7. Of course I can't list every political prisoner – we outnumber the guards, who are faced to work overtime as no one wants to be an American concentration camp nazi. I also send my respects to the Myanmar People's Resistance – my heart breaks for you and I admire your bravery. In the Handmaid's Tale they say "Don't let the bastards grind you down" but I say "Their oppression makes us rise up!" We rise in waves. Resistance is life!

- Alish Are (aka Dan Baker)

Write Dan at:

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Mail In Jail: Letter From Former U.S. Antifascist Prisoner David Campbell

July 2021

The first day I received mail in jail I got twenty-one letters, three books, and a calendar, some from friends and family, and some from total strangers. The fact that so many people had thought of me and taken the time to put pen to paper took me completely by surprise. In fact, it moved me to tears right there in the stairwell outside the mailroom. I think having a cry when you need one is a good thing, but it's pretty sternly frowned up in jail. I was barely a week in then, and, terrified of establishing a reputation as a weepy guy, gave my face a wipe, puffed up my chest, grabbed my brown paper bag of mail and returned to my dorm. Fortunately, I had been alone in the stairwell, and no one had seen me weep. But my reaction, too, had taken me completely by surprise. I'm old enough to remember pen pals and phone trees; I had gotten letters before. But damn, does it mean something to get a letter in jail.

When you're in a stripped-down world of neutral tones and enforced monotony, your daily experience itself takes on a sort of muffled feeling. Anything shiny, colorful, or divergent from your engineered environment simultaneously grabs your eye and punches you in the gut. Once, a group of four of us stood together in the yard staring in amazement at a regular ol' ladybug crawling across one guy's hand until another broke the spell with "Yo, this some jail shit!", sending us all spinning off into peals of laughter. The humor, of course, was in the statement's truth. Like it or not, conscious of it or not, we were starved for stimuli, and anything to break that starvation was hastily, instinctively devoured.

Letters, the envelopes they came in, even the stamps on the envelopes were all, like that ladybug, fleeting but extraordinarily powerful ways of breaking that starvation. I once got a piece of junk mail from the Arbor Day Foundation, the sort of thing I'd throw away without a second glance on the outside. But behind bars, the high-definition full-color prints of trees and woodlands that adorned the Arbor Day Foundation's promise to send me 10 free seedlings if I donated \$10 were too powerful to resist. I didn't donate (I had hardly seen paper money in months, and I didn't think seedlings were permissible mail items at Rikers), but I kept the letter. Sometimes I took it out just to take a look at the trees, and when I left, I brought it home with me, as I did all my letters.

A letter is an indirect form of physical connection, too: the smell or feel of the paper, the personality present in the sender's handwriting, or even

doing so. I felt that I had just stopped being human; hatred for myself overshadowed all my thoughts. But today, although I am in prison, actually behind four walls, I now remain the person that I really am. If I had [approached the trial] differently, my life would have been mere existence. Why talk about freedom, equality and fraternity, and then betray all of that? What would these words mean for people, if each one of us could just turn our backs on them when the executioners demand it?

The more that people betray themselves and others, the more often they carry out criminal orders in spite of their conscience, the sooner we will all become slaves, deprived of our free will, whose lives are mere existence.

Maybe I am guilty for silence,

Guilty for unnecessary words.

At moments of fear and desperation

My guilt can be hidden.

I constantly expect reproach

Even from those who are indifferent.

I, like everyone, am not free of defects,

But I am constrained by my conscience.

That's what calls on me at times

Not to shut my eyes to evil

And to stand by those who suffer.

Otherwise, the burden of guilt will suffocate us.

Q: If you could make time go backwards, and return to some point before your arrest, would you change anything cardinal in your life?

I already look at my past from a different, probably more grown-up and aware, viewpoint. So of course there are things in the past I would like to change. For example, I would value more highly the people around me, not make mistakes or take wrong turnings, be less bitter, less naive – and much else, maybe some completely personal stuff. But I take my fate as it is – although, of course, there's much I could regret, as there is for many

Q: After you heard the verdict, and the long, severe sentences, at the court of first instance, how did you react? What has helped you not to give up, not to be overcome by depression, to hold on?

When I heard the sentences being read out, I took them as final confirmation that this was nothing more than punishment for recalcitrance. It's difficult to believe what's happened, and even now I try not to dwell on it. Such thoughts can gnaw away at you and drive you out of your mind.

We live in a world where the life of any one of us can be destroyed, on the whim of those who have power in their hands. What's most terrifying of all is that people get used to this – to everything that is happening now: demonstrators and young politicians being beaten up; criminal cases under terrorism laws being opened against underaged children; the poisoning of undesirables, absurd sentences, and much, much more that is unjust, cruel and brutal, that could become the norm, if society just accepts it as the new reality. I fear that, above all. Really, that would be totalitarianism with the silent acquiescence of the majority. And then it might be too late to start saying that that was not what we wanted.

I admit, honestly, that holding on, not getting depressed, gets harder. Especially in the context of what is happening in the country. But I am still alive, I have friends and family waiting for me outside these walls, they believe in me and sincerely love me – and so I have to hold on. I must not give up, for the sake of those people who are dear to me, for my own sake, for the sake of the stars in the sky and the fresh air, for the sake of freedom and love.

With smiles they were breaking my wings,

My scream sometimes was like a wail.

And I was numb from pain and helplessness,

And could just whisper: thanks to be alive! (Vladimir Vysotsky.)

Q: You practically all received exactly the sentences that the prosecution asked for – evidently, in large part because you refused to admit guilt and you publicly denounced the torture. With the benefit of hindsight, do you now regret that?

To regret the course we have taken would render worthless all that we have lived through, and are living through now. The very worst time for me was when I gave up to weakness and fear, and betrayed myself by

the simple knowledge that it's been held and written on by someone else can be incredibly intimate, second only to a hug during a visit. This is why I feel so dismayed at the growing trend of jails and prisons scanning all mail and sending inmates digital copies--not only are these copies often barely legible, they dampen the valuable contact with the outside world that letters provide. The bureaucratic dehumanization of the prison system, it seems, has found yet another way to insert itself between the people in its cages and the people who care about them.

I was comparatively fortunate at Rikers in that the mail policy there is less restrictive than some other facilities and jurisdictions. I was able to receive an unlimited number of letters or postcards in any language, and I received the original letters themselves, rather than illegible copies. Technically, there were a number of things that could get a piece of mail rejected, but they were only sporadically enforced. Most of the time, I got an enormous diversity of paper in terms of color, size, and texture. Tiny, delicate pages from a Muji notebook, studded with a grid of little gray dots; sky-blue stationery embossed with an ornate, shiny floral motif around its borders; cream-colored sheets almost as thick as cardstock, so rough to the touch they felt like wicker beneath my fingers. One friend sent me vintage Halloween postcards almost every week for the entire year with exquisite holographic Halloween stamps to match. Another sent me a campy promotional scratch-and-sniff card designed to accompany the 1981 John Waters film Polyester.

Ironically enough, I actually forgot about the International Day of Solidarity with Antifascist Prisoners while serving my time. I was about nine months into my year at that point, and the flood of mail I'd received at the start of my bid had tapered off by then. I still received, on average, an ungodly amount of letters, but after the first few months the flow had slowed a bit. In the weeks before and after July 25, I was again surprised to find myself swamped with a volume of letters that warmed my heart and made my head spin. Many were from people who'd never written before, simple messages like "Just sending July 25 solidarity. Keep your head up!"

Much of the mail I received throughout my bid fell into this category: postcards from cities people were visiting pre-Covid, or Hallmarks cards bearing brief words of encouragement. "You got this!" or "Don't let the bastards grind you down!" Long, meticulous accounts of everyday life, books, movies, trips, meals and so on were equally common and equally welcome, soothing in their mundane detail. I reconnected with people I hadn't spoken to in years, and lived vicariously through them. Friends got into gardening or mutual aid work and sent me updates about their vegetables and redistribution efforts. New pen pals manifested right up

until my release date. After that first day receiving mail, I wasn't moved to tears anymore, but I was invariably deeply moved. Every single card and letter made me smile, and many made me quite literally laugh out loud. The mail I got was one of the things that still resonates most with me about my time inside.

Perhaps it's different for those serving sentences longer than mine. For some, the luster of news from outside may start to wear thin after a while. But for me, the letters I received had an enormous positive impact upon my mental health while incarcerated. Indeed, new letters were one of the main things I looked forward to every day. Mail serves important social functions inside, too. I often got radical newsletters and zines, or articles about the Floyd Uprising that I could share with other prisoners. My defense committee even subscribed me to the New York Times; I shared that with others, too. And a high volume of mail serves as proof that a number of people care about you on the outside. Even if only subconsciously, it can raise your standing in COs' and other inmates' eyes: if that many people care about you, perhaps you're worth caring about, even in jail.

For those outside, writing a prisoner can be frustrating. Letters get lost, redacted, or rejected. Prisoners may bring only bad news about things people on the outside are powerless to stop. Yet a simple letter can be extraordinarily effective for an incarcerated person's well-being. And since my release, all of my correspondences with incarcerated folks have been intensely rewarding for me. If nothing else, they invariably leave me grateful for what I have, and you don't have to be formerly incarcerated to appreciate that.

There are many forms of support beyond letter-writing: organizing or petitioning for release; fundraising or donating; sending books and other small comforts. These are all vital ways to contribute; I experienced all of them firsthand while serving my time. This veritable avalanche of solidarity left me at once deeply humbled and fiercely proud of the people out there fighting to build a better world against all odds, without leaving others in the struggle behind.

We will need more of all of these in the years ahead. As the climate continues melting down and the state deteriorates further into barbarism, we will likely see an increasing number of antifascist prisoners. We must continue to foster a strong, vibrant, and sustainable culture of solidarity for them. We must fight against the carceral system gobbling up new victims, and fight for its spitting them out as soon as possible. And for those caught in the belly of the beast, there is no shortage of support work to be done. To the uninitiated, this prospect can seem daunting.

that supports the "Network" case prisoners. (The questions were sent via Yelena Shakurskaya, Ilya's mother, and answers received, via Yelena, in written form.)

Q: Do you feel the support from outside the prison system, and how important is it? Could you say something briefly to our readers and to people who support you?

It feels good to realise, every morning when they call out my surname and hand over letters I have received, that people remember me and continue to support me. At those moments, the grey monotony of imprisonment is broken up by different colors. It doesn't matter whether the letter is a couple of lines or goes on like a whole essay. Just getting some news gives me strength and happiness. When I see photos of solidarity actions all over the world; when I read interviews with well-known people who speak about the absurdity of the criminal case against us; when I hear the drums and voices of friends [demonstrating] on the other side of the [prison] wall; when I think of the concert, at which the whole hall sang "It Will All Pass" ["Vse proidet"] (a song by the Russian punk group, Pornofilms, about the "Network" case), or of the rap-battle, where verses were read in support of our case, or of the street artist who used graffiti to speak out about repression in Russia today – I feel like it wasn't all in vain.

If this means that people start paying attention to things that were previously out of their reach, or unclear, or that they didn't need to think about – then this could become a way in which everyone can contribute to the struggle against the absurdity, the violence and the injustice. Now and then the flame dies down, but solidarity is a stream of sparks, that stops them from putting the fire out all together, that stops us losing heart – or, to put it another way, stops us from bowing our heads and submitting to evil.

If any of you suddenly thinks of writing to a political prisoner, don't abandon that thought. Don't hide it in your "to do" list among your other worries. Do it, right at that moment. Write about your dreams, about what you love, share some memories that make you laugh, or your impressions from a book you have read. Please be assured that your letter is more important than it can seem to you. It can save a political prisoner from the awful monotony of another day behind bars and walls. And that really is very important.

I am very grateful to each and every person who supports political prisoners, who fights for their release, and for justice, and who conveys those sparks that light the fire, that prevent evil from consuming our lives.

Interview with Antifascist Political Prisoner Ilya Shakursky, Imprisoned in Network Case

January 18th, 2021, submitted to enoughisenough14.org

ILYA SHAKURSKY, an antifascist political prisoner in Russia, appeals to you in this interview to write to him, and to others imprisoned in the infamous “Network” case. Please see a note at the end about where to send messages.

January 19th is the anniversary of the assassination of antifascists Anastasia Baburova and Stanislav Markelov, who were shot dead in broad daylight in central Moscow in 2009. People will gather – in Moscow, to lay flowers at the place where they were killed, elsewhere on line – and we publish this article on several web sites simultaneously, to express solidarity.

The “Network” case began in Penza and St Petersburg in October 2017, when the Federal Security Service (FSB) started detaining young anarchists and antifascists, who had supposedly participated in a terrorist group. The security services claimed that the young detainees were preparing terrorist acts, aimed at the presidential elections and the football World Cup in 2018 [which was staged in Russia].

It soon became clear that this “Network” organisation had been dreamed up by the FSB, and the confessions extracted from the alleged participants with the use of the most barbaric tortures. Details of the methods used, including electric shock batons, were published widely before the defendants were tried.

Nevertheless, the defendants were found guilty and sentenced – in January 2019 in St Petersburg, Igor Shishkin to three-and-a-half years’ detention; in February 2020, seven defendants in Penza, including Ilya Shakursky, to between six and 18 years; and in June 2020 in St Petersburg, Viktor Filinkov to seven years and Yulii Boyarshinov to five-and-a-half years.

In October 2020, an appeal by the Penza defendants was heard and rejected. An appeal by Viktor Filinkov is in progress.

All ten defendants are included in a list of 61 political prisoners compiled by Memorial, Russia’s largest human rights defence group.

This interview with Ilya Shakursky, who is serving a 16 year sentence, was published by Free Russia House, an “alternative embassy for Russian civil society” based in Kyiv, Ukraine, and by the Rupression collective

Where to begin, and how? To which, at the risk of minimizing other forms of support, there is a simple answer: write a prisoner a letter. Even if they can only get a digital copy. Even if only once. Even if only to say “Keep your head up!”

Gage Halupowski
#21894460
Snake River Correctional Institution
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Gage was arrested at a counter demonstration against a far-right rally in Portland, Oregon on June 29th, 2019 and accepted a non-cooperation plea deal, pled guilty to an assault charge, and was sentenced to nearly six years in prison.

In addition to being anti-fascist, Gage is also a radical environmentalist and an anarchist. So, discussing history, politics or the ideologies of those movements as well could be a good place to start. He is also a fan of the fantasy novel series, The Wheel of Time and looks forward to reading all 12 books in the series while he's in, so if you've read those or would like to he'd love to discuss them with you

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Boyarshinov Yuliy Nikolayevich , 1991

The individuals locked up in The Network Case in Russia can only receive mail in Russian.



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Shakurskiy Ilya Alexandrovich, 1996

The individuals locked up in The Network Case in Russia can only receive mail in Russian.



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The individuals locked up in The Network Case in Russia can only receive mail in Russian.



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The individuals locked up in The Network Case in Russia can only receive mail in Russian.



Rodrigo Lanza

Huidobro Centro Penitenciario De Zuera Autovia A-23
Km 328 CP 50800
Zaragoza Spain



Rodrigo Lanza is an antifascist from Chile. In December of 2017, Rodrigo was out with friends at a bar in Spain when they were approached by a man who began insulting Rodrigo, calling him “sudaka” (a derogatory term for Latin Americans) and telling him to go back to his country. As Rodrigo attempted to leave the bar, Victor Lainez, a member of the fascist Falange group with many friends in the local fascist scene, pulled a knife. Rodrigo defended himself and in the ensuing fight, Lainez was killed.

Occurring during the movement for Catalan independence and the accompanying resurgence of hardcore Spanish nationalism, the press worked overtime to vilify Rodrigo as a ‘foreigner,’ squatter, and former political prisoner. They claimed that Lainez was attacked at random for wearing Spanish flag suspenders, and built a bogus narrative of an innocent Spanish citizen murdered simply for showing support for his country. In 2020, Rodrigo was sentenced to twenty years in prison. Rodrigo understands Spanish and simple English phrases.

Pablo Rivadulla Duro
Centro Penitenciario De Ponent C/Victoria
Kent s/N 25071
Lleida Modulo 7



Pablo Hasel is an antifascist rapper from Lleida and on 2/12/2021 he was indicted on “inciting terrorism” charges due to lyrics he put out as an artist that are against cops and the crown. Pablo was given a 2 years and 9 months sentence after being convicted of these absurd charges. For an entire week after Pablo was captured on 2/16 an uprising erupted in cities across Spain in response to his arrest. The uprising was an absolute force against repression and fascism and demonstrated exactly what is possible.

You can follow Pablo’s support team’s twitter account @LlibertatHasel and find his poetry and articles at <https://pablohaseldesdeprision.com/>

The Network Ten (Russia)

In 2017, on the even of the presidential election as well as the World Cup, Russian FSB agents arrested six anti-fascists as they played airsoft in the woods. After several documented torture sessions that included protracted beatings and electrocution, FSB agents arrested four more anti-fascists and fabricated a terror cell called “the Network” to prosecute the ten anti-fascists for belonging to.

The detained were beaten and tortured by FSB operatives at the pre-trial detention center. The operatives attached electrodes to different body parts of the detained and passed an electric current through them. During the tortures, the operatives forced the detained to memorize the story made-up by FSB. According to the story, the detained were the organizers and members of a terrorist group called “Network”. At the end of January of 2018, two more antifascists were arrested in St Petersburg. They were also beaten, electrocuted, and forced to incriminate themselves – to confess that they are members of the “Network”. In April of 2018, the third defendant emerged in St Petersburg. Further, in July of 2018, two more defendants from Penza were arrested. Using torture and forged evidence, FSB fabricated the case of a terrorist organization “Network”. FSB claims that the detained were planning to cause explosions during the Russian presidential elections and the World Cup. All that is said to be “to shake the masses to further destabilize the political situation in the country” and to start an armed uprising. At the current moment, ten young men are being imprisoned. Igor Shishkin received a prison term of 3.5 years and serves his sentence in a penal colony. The defendants of the Penza part of the case of “Network” received prison terms of from 6 to 18 years. After the case of “Network” and the tortures came to light, numerous solidarity actions started in Russia and abroad.

Two of the arrestees cooperated with the state, signed confessions, and provided information to implicate the other arrestees. Of the remaining arrestees, six have been convicted and received very severe prison sentences while two await trial.

More details on the arrests, torture, and fabricated evidence can be found at rupression.com/en

Donations to help with their legal costs and to support their families can be made at rupression.com/support/

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