

SUPPORT ANTIFASCIST PRISONERS



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 many 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 to transcend both the prison and the border wall.

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. 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, those still awaiting trial—because they are in there for us, and so we must be out here for them!

Make sure to double check all addresses for prisoners by checking the #J25 website before sending out letters to prisoners:
<https://supportantifaprisoners.wordpress.com/>

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

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.

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

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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Write Eric!

Eric King #27090-045
USP Lee
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Eric has been fighting mail bans off and on for the last several years, and has been moved several times in lieu of beating his case of trumped up assault charges against a prison guard, which you can find an interview about at The Final Straw Radio. 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.

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

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 very 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.\$.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

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.

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
South Fork Forest Camp
48300 Wilson River Highway
Tillamook, OR 97141-9799



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

Rodrigo Lanza
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Barcelona, 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.

In November 2019, Rodrigo was sentenced to five years in prison.

Rodrigo understands Spanish and simple English phrases.

Dzianis “Denis” Boltuts
Penal Colony No. 2. 213800
Babrujsk, vulica Sikorskaha 1
BELARUS



Denis is an antifascist from Minsk, Belarus and a support of MTZ-RIPO FC. After participating in the uprising against the Lukashenko regime in 2020, Denis was sentenced to six years in prison.

FINDUS

Findus is a German anti-fascist skinhead who was tried on a variety of charges stemming from his participation in anti-fascist demonstrations. In October 2020 Findus' trial ended with his conviction, for which he receive a 2.5 year prison sentence with no chance of early release.

Red Aid Stuttgart
-For Findus-
Boblingerstr. 105
70199 Stuttgart
Germany

“Kita”:

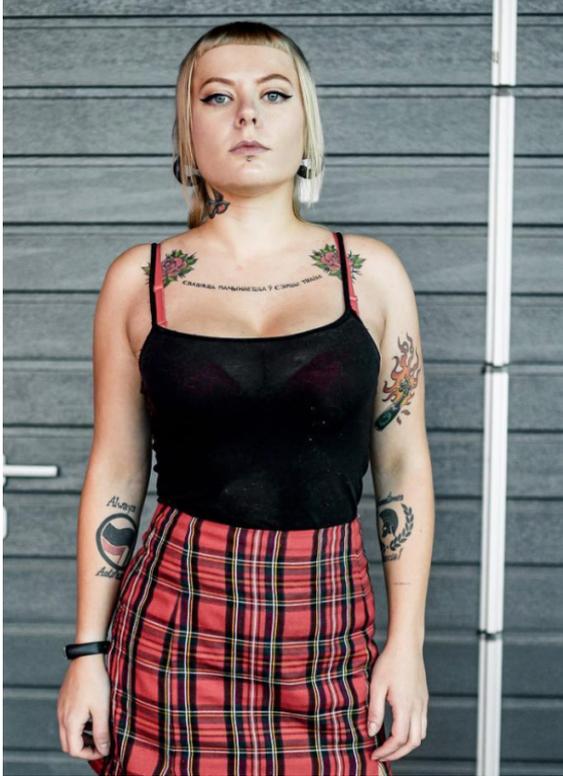
Cherenkova Kristina Aleksandrovna

SIZO-3, ul.

Knizhnaya 1A,

Gomel, BELARUS

(Belarussian or Russian only)



Kita is an antifascist in Belarus who was among a dozen people whose homes were raided by police in March 2022. She has been in prison ever since on charges of “inciting social hatred against police officers” and could serve five years.

You can write to Kita in English via ABC Belarus at their website:
<http://abc-belarus.org>

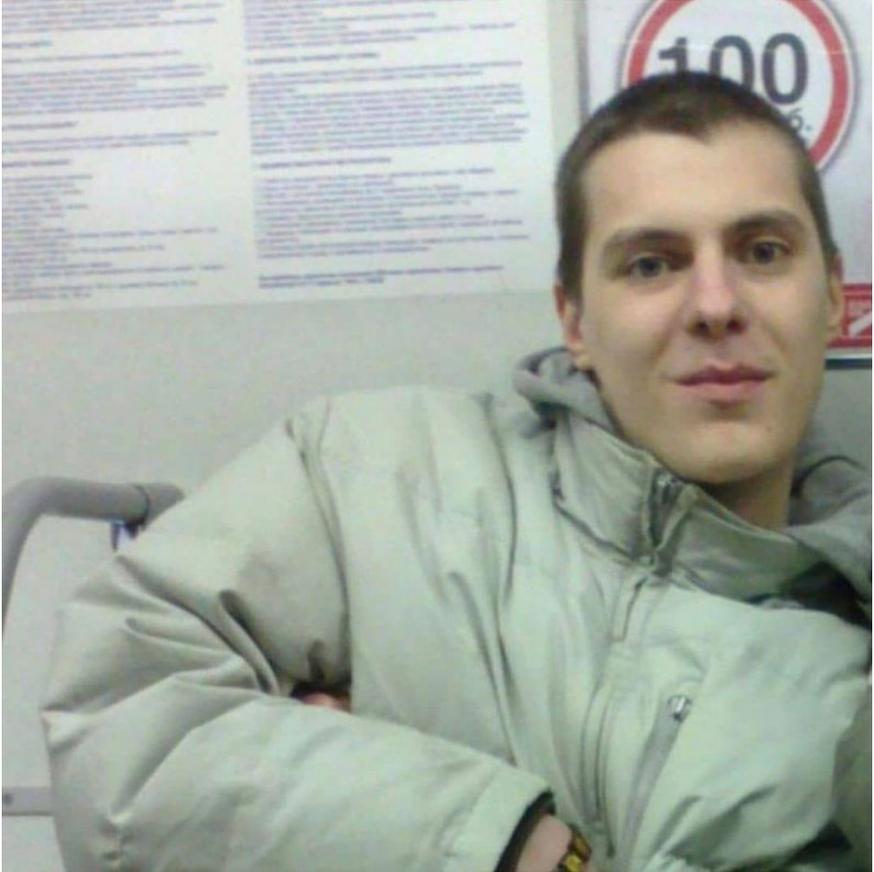
You can contribute to Kita’s legal defence and her family via paypal:
a.charankova@gmail.com

Tamaz Papiya
Penal Colony No. 1.211440
Navapolack, Vulica
Technicnaya 8
BELARUS



Tamaz is an antifascist from Minsk, Belarus and a supporter of MTZ-RIPO FC. After participating in the uprising against the Lukashenko regime in 2020, Denis was sentenced to six years in prison. All letters to Tamaz must be in Belarusian or Russian.

Tsimur Pipiya
Penal Colony No. 15.213105
Mahilou, Viejna
Slauharadskaja sasa 183
BELARUS



Tsimur is an antifascist from Minsk, Belarus and a support of MTZ-RIPO FC. After participating in the uprising against the Lukashenko regime in 2020, Denis was sentenced to six years in prison. All letters to Tsimur must be in Belarusian or Russian.

Hanna Pyshnik (Chympajesh)



Hanna is an anti-fascist from Belarus who was arrested in March 2022 for allegedly shooting and distributing video footage of military helicopters. You can write to her and donate to her and her family at <https://abc-belarus.org>

Aliaksandr Reznik
Penal Colony No. 15
213105, Mahilou
Viejna, Slauharadskaja sasa 183
BELARUS



Aliaksandr is an antifascist from Minsk, Belarus. In October 2020, he was arrested during the uprising against the Lukashenko regime and convicted of “participation in a mass riot.” Aliaksandr is presently serving an eight-year prison sentence. All letters to Aliaksandr must be in Belarusian or Russian.

Shishlov Vitaly Vyacheslavovich

IK-3

Vitebskaya oblast

211322 Vitba

BELARUS



Vitaliy is an antifascist from Belarus. In September 2020, he was arrested during the uprising against the Lukashenko regime and is presently serving a six-year prison sentence. All letters to Vitaliy must be in Belarusian or Russian. You can donate to support Vitaliy and his family via Paypal at <https://paypal.com/paypalme/abcbelarus>

Zenevich Vladislav Vladimirovich

IUOT-24

ul. Lidskaya 29b, k. 32

230025 Grodno

BELARUS



Vladislav is an antifascist from Minsk, Belarus. In November 2020, he was arrested and severely beaten by police during the uprising against the Lukashenko regime. In February 2021, Vladislav received a three-year prison sentence. All letters to Vladislav must be in Belarusian or Russian. You can donate to support Vladislav and his family via Paypal at <https://paypal.com/paypalme/abcbelarus>

The Network Case (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/

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

Address for Dmitriy Pchelintsev:

440042 Penza,
ul. Molodogvardeyskaya, 9,
PKU IK No. 4, PFRSI,
RUSSIA
Pchelintsev Dmitriy Dmitrievich, 1992



Address for Viktor Filinkov:

SIZO-3 FSIN,
191123 Russia,
St. Petersburg,
ul. Shpalernaya 25,
Filinkov Victor Sergeevich, 1994



Address for Yuliy Boyarshinov:

SIZO-3 FSIN,
191123 Russia,
St. Petersburg,
ul. Shpalernaya 25,
Boyarshinov Yuliy Nikolayevich , 1991



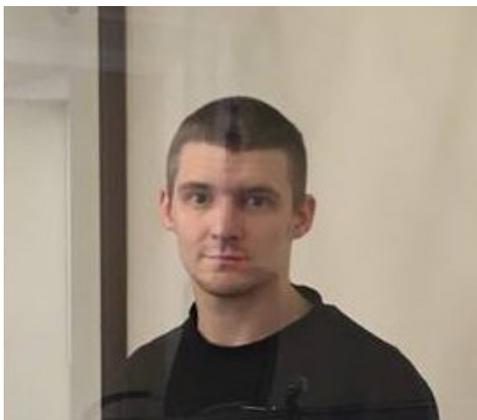
Address for Ilya Shakurskiy:

SIZO-1,
440039 Russia,
Penzenskaya obl.,
Penza, ulitsa Karakozova 30,
Shakurskiy Ilya Alexandrovich, 1996



Address for Andrey Chernov:

SIZO-1
440039 Russia,
Penzenskaya obl. Penza,
ulitsa Karakozova 30,
Chernov Andrey Sergeevich, 1989



Address for Vasiliy Kuksov:

SIZO-1
440039 Russia,
Penzenskaya obl., Penza,
ulitsa Karakozova 30,
Vasiliy Alekseevich Kuksov, 1988



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

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.

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

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

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!

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/>

To donate directly to the International Anti-Fascist Prisoner Support Fund: <https://bit.ly/j25antifafund>

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! Stay updated on the fund here: <https://intlantifadefence.wordpress.com/>

