

# NYC Anarchist Black Cross



**U.S. Political Prisoner and Prisoner of War Listing**  
Edition 19, January 2026

ALL CONTENT IN THIS EDITION IS UP-TO-DATE TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE  
AS OF JANUARY 31, 2026.

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## BLACK/NEW AFRIKAN LIBERATION

Smart Communications/PA DOC

**Mumia Abu-Jamal #AM8335**

SCI Mahanoy

Post Office Box 33028

St Petersburg, Florida 33733



*Birthday: April 24*

Mumia is an award winning journalist and was one of the founders of the Black Panther Party chapter in Philadelphia.

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

Smart Communications/PA DOC

**Joe-Joe Bowen\* #AM4272**

SCI Fayette

Post Office Box 33028

St Petersburg, Florida 33733

*\*Address envelope to Joseph Bowen.*



*Birthday: January 15*

Joseph “Joe-Joe” Bowen is one of the many all-but-forgotten frontline soldiers in the liberation struggle. A native of Philadelphia, Joe-Joe was a young member of the “30th and Norris” street gang before his incarceration politicized him. Released in 1971, his outside activism was cut short a week following his release when Joe-Joe was confronted by an officer of the notoriously brutal Philadelphia police department. The police officer was killed in the confrontation, and Bowen fled. After his capture and incarceration, Bowen became a Black Liberation Army combatant, defiant to authorities at every turn. In 1973, Joe-Joe and Philadelphia Five prisoner Fred

“Muhammad” Burton assassinated Holmesberg prison’s warden and deputy warden as well as wounded the guard commander in retaliation for intense repression against Muslim prisoners in the facility.

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

Smart Communications/PA DOC

**Muhammad Burton\* AF3896**

SCI Somerset

Post Office Box 33028

St Petersburg, Florida 33733

*\*Address envelope to Fred Burton.*

*Birthday: December 15*

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



**Ronald Reed #219531**

Minnesota Correctional Facility - Lino Lakes

Post Office Box 247

Phoenix, Maryland 21131

*Birthday: August 31*

Ronald Reed, a former member of the Black United Front, was convicted of the 1970 shooting of a St. Paul police officer. Twenty-five years after the killing, Reed was arrested and



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

**Kojo Bomani Sababu\* #39384-066**

USP Canaan  
Post Office Box 300  
Waymart, Pennsylvania 18472

*\*Address envelope to Grailing Brown.*

*Birthday: May 27*

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



**Kamau Sadiki\* #0001150688**

Augusta State Medical Prison  
3001 Gordon Highway  
Grovetown, Georgia 30813

*\*Address envelope to Freddie Hilton.*

*Birthday: February 19*

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



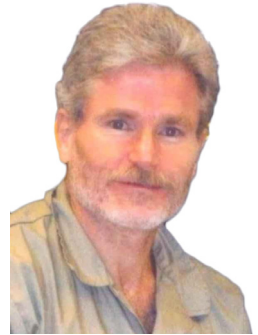
## ANARCHIST MOVEMENTS

### **Bill Dunne #10916-086**

FCI Butner Medium II  
Post Office Box 1500  
Butner, North Carolina 27509

*Birthday: August 3*

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



### **Casey Goonan #24611-511**

FCI Mendota  
Post Office Box 9  
Mendota, California 93640

*Birthday: April 25*

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



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

**Marius Mason #04672-061**

FCI Danbury  
Route 37  
Danbury, Connecticut 06811



*Birthday: January 26*

Marius Mason is a transgender environmental and animal rights activist and anarchist. In 1999, in the name of the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) he set fire to a lab at the University of Michigan that was conducting research on genetically modified organisms (GMO). After Marius' husband turned state's-evidence, Marius was threatened with a life sentence for the arson and other acts of sabotage. With little financial stability and fear of dragging his family into a costly legal battle, Marius pled guilty and was given an extreme sentence of nearly 22 years. No one was ever harmed in any of his actions. *More information: [supportmariusmason.org](http://supportmariusmason.org)*

**Peppy\* #66590-510**

FCI Elkton  
Post Office Box 10  
Lisbon, Ohio 44432

*\*Address envelope to Brian DiPippa.*

*Birthday: October 1*

Peppy is an anarchist serving 60 months after accepting a non-cooperating plea agreement for conspiracy and obstruction of law enforcement during a civil disorder. The case against Peppy arose out of an April 18, 2023, demonstration against a University of Pittsburgh-sanctioned event that promoted hatred toward transgender people and communities. The speaking event features notorious transphobes Brad Polumbo and Michael Knowles, and posed the question, "should transgenderism be regulated by law?"



It is important to note that in the affidavit for a search warrant, the FBI described their following of Peppy beginning a week before the April 18th protest—that is, a week before any allegation of any law being broken—on the pretext of having found a pamphlet about the movement to Stop Cop City in an unwarranted search of Peppy's trash. *More information: [freepeppy.org](http://freepeppy.org)*

## **Hridindu Roychowdhury #51111-510**

FCI Marion  
Post Office Box 1000  
Marion, Illinois 62959



*Birthday: February 24*

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

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

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

## **INDIGENOUS RESISTANCE**

### **Oso Blanco\* #07909-051**

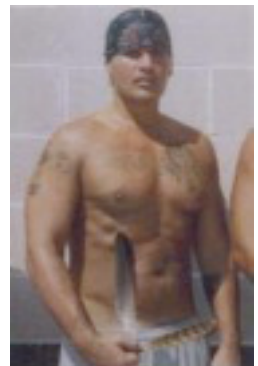
USP Atwater  
Post Office box 019001  
Atwater, California 95301

*\*Address envelope to Byron Chubbuck.*

*Birthday: February 26*

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

*Info at: [freesoblanco.blogspot.com](http://freesoblanco.blogspot.com)*



## OTHER NATIONAL LIBERATION

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

**Xinachtli\* #255735**

Post Office Box 660400

Dallas, Texas 75266-0400

*\*Address envelope to Alvaro Hernández.*



*Birthday: May 12*

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

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

*More information: [freealvaro.net](http://freealvaro.net)*

## ANTI-POLICE

**Andrew Mickel V77400**

California Institution for Men

Post Office Box 368

Chino, California 91708

*Birthday: March 13*

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



sentenced to death, and is being held on Death Row at San Quentin State Prison.

### **Joy Powell #07-G-0632**

Bedford Hills Correctional Facility  
Post Office Box 1000  
Bedford Hills, New York 10507-2499

*Birthday: March 5*

Joy Powell was warned by the Rochester Police department that she was a target because of her speaking out against corruption.

An all white jury tried her; the state provided no evidence and no eyewitnesses. Joy was not allowed to discuss her activism or say that she was a pastor. Furthermore, Judge Francis Affronti promised he was going to give her a harsh sentence because he did not like her. She was convicted and given 16 years and seven years concurrent. *More information: [freejoypowell.org](http://freejoypowell.org)*



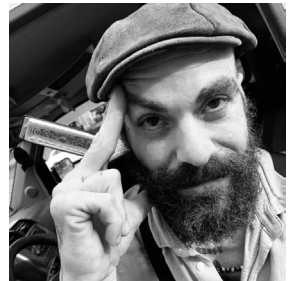
## **ANTI-RACIST/ANTIFA**

### **Alexander Contompasis 22-B-5028**

Upstate Correctional Facility  
Post Office Box 2001  
Malone, New York 12953

*Birthday: February 26*

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



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

*More Information: [freealexstokes.com](http://freealexstokes.com)*

## VIRGIN ISLAND 3

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

### **Abdul Azeez\* #19-1878**

Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility  
19351 US Highway 49 North  
Tutwiler, Mississippi 38963

*\*Address envelope to Warren Ballentine.*

*Birthday: January 9*

### **Hanif Shabazz Bey\* #19-1952**

Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility  
19351 US Highway 49 North  
Tutwiler, Mississippi 38963

*\*Address envelope to Beaumont Gereau.*

*Birthday: August 16*

### **Malik Smith\* #19-1874**

Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility  
19351 US Highway 49 North  
Tutwiler, Mississippi 38963

*\*Address envelope to Meral Smith.*

*Birthday: October 8*



## **NEW YORK CITY ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS (NYC ABC)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Find out more:**

**website:** [nycabc.wordpress.com](http://nycabc.wordpress.com) | **email:** [nycabc@riseup.net](mailto:nycabc@riseup.net) | **socials:** [@nycabc](#)

## **WRITE A LETTER**

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

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

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

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

### **What to Write**

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

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

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

For things you should and should not remember when writing to folks, read "[Guidelines.](#)"

## **Guidelines**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

movement survival common sense (to review, read “[Staying Safe](#)”).

## **STAYING SAFE**

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

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

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

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

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

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



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