Black Cross Bulletin

A Los Angeles Anarchist Black Cross Federation Publication

SUMMER 2019

"The work isn't done for the glory, but because we believe in Mutual Aid." - Boris Yelensky Vol. 2 Issue 1

Janet, Janine and Eddie Freed After 40 Years

On May 24, 2019, Janet Holloway Africa and Janine Phillips Africa of the MOVE 9 were released from state custody after more than forty years of incarceration. On June 21st, Eddie Africa was also released from prison. Imprisoned since 1978, these MOVE members have been battling for their freedom after being consistently denied parole for over a decade despite an impeccable disciplinary record and extensive record of mentorship and community service during their time in prison.

They, along with the rest of the MOVE 9, were arrested after clash with the Philadelphia police department on August 8, 1978. The Move Organization owned a large twin house on the corner at 33rd and Pearl Street in the Powelton Village neighborhood of Philadelphia. Tensions began to increase between the city government and the MOVE organization due to a combination of neighborhood complaints and confrontations with government agencies. The MOVE organization, believing they were going to be attacked by the police, began to arm itself. Using this as an excuse, Mayor Frank Risso ordered a blockade of the neighborhood. The blockade lasted several weeks, during which time residents of the area had to show identification to reach their homes.

On August 8, 1978, Philadelphia police attempted to forcibly remove the MOVE Organization from the house. A conflict broke out, with the police and fire department using bullets and fire hoses against the MOVE members. The inhabitants attempted to protect themselves by hiding in the basement.

During the confrontation, an officer was shot and killed. Police claim members of the MOVE organization were responsible for his death, despite the evidence that suggested he was struck with a bullet from behind and in a downward angle. The city of Philadelphia proved their case with weapons and forensics, despite never connecting the bullet with any weapons connected to MOVE Organization. In fact, a few hours following this incident, Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo had the house demolished as it was deemed uninhabitable due to health code violations,



destroying most of the evidence. On May 4, 1980, a judge pronounced the nine members of MOVE (the MOVE 9) guilty and sentenced them to 30-100 years for the third-degree murder of the police officer.

Seven years later the police engaged in another assault against the MOVE Organization; This time at a house on Osage Avenue in West Philadelphia. On May 13, 1985, police attempted to serve arrest warrants on four members of the organization. A gun battle broke out between police and MOVE members. As part of their assault police dropped explosives on top of the MOVE house, igniting a fire. The fire was allowed to burn, while police continued to shoot into the house. In the end, six adults and five children were killed inside the MOVE house and over sixty-two homes were destroyed. Only Ramona and Birdie Africa survived the incident.

The MOVE 9 continued to fight for their freedom, while they were spread throughout the Pennsylvania prison system. Sadly in March of 1998, Merle Africa died in what has been described as questionable circumstances. In 2015, Phil Africa also as passed on.

The light of freedom, however, began to break through with the release of Debbie Sims Africa in June 2018. Michael Davis Africa was soon released in October 2018. However, the rest of the MOVE members were denied parole in 2018. After the denials, attorneys from Abolitionist Law Center and People's Law Office filed petitions for habeas corpus seeking their release from prison. The habeas petitions challenged their parole denials on the grounds that the decisions were arbitrary and lacking in any evidence that Janet or Janine presented a risk to public safety.

Under pressure from litigation and with a court date for May 28 looming, the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (board) granted Janet and Janine parole on May 14, 2019, just one day after the anniversary of the notorious May 13, 1985 bombing of the MOVE home.Eddie's release was soon to follow.

Like Debbie and Mike Africa, who were released last year, the three are now able to experience holding their loved ones outside of prison walls for the first time in decades. Their release after forty years is the culmination of the MOVE organization, public support, legal action, and policy changes.

Two other members of the MOVE 9 remain incarcerated (Chuck and Delbert), while two others (Merle Africa and Phil Africa) died in custody. Abolitionist Law Center and People's Law Office represent Chuck and Delbert in the struggle for their freedom. To support the fight, you may donate to the MOVE 9 Legal Fund.

What is the Anarchist Black Cross Federation?

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

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

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

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

In 1958, the organization collapsed but reemerged in 1967 in London, England. Once again ABC chapters spread throughout the globe providing support for imprisoned comrades. Sadly, by the end of the 1970s only a handful of ABC chapters still existed. In the 80s, however, the ABC began to gain popularity again in the US and Europe. For years, the ABC's name was kept alive by a number of completely autonomous groups scattered throughout the globe and supporting a wide variety of prison issues.

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

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

Introduction:

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

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

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

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

INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF LONG-TERM ANARCHIST PRISONERS



The ABCF is: Federation Chapters

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NEWS FROM THE FRONT

Greek Anarchist Escapes

In has been reported that at or around June 7, 2019, the anarchist prisoner Giannis Michailidis [aka Yannis Michailidis] escaped from the agricultural prison of Tyrintha in the Peloponnese region of Greece. Michailidis has been in prison since February 2013 due to his alleged involvement in two bank expropriations in Vevento, along with Nikos Romanós, Dimitris Politis and Andreas-Dimitris Bourzourkos. He was sentence to 16 years and 4 months for the actions.

In 2015, he was sentenced to an additional 15 years in prison for an armed attack against police in Pefki on May 18, 2011. During the attack, two policemen and an anarchist, Theofilos Mavropoulos, were wounded. Mavropoulos was detained at the scene. Michailidis earned the name "the archer of Syntagma" during a general strike in February of 2011 because he was shooting arrows at police during clashes.

ELA Member Passes On

Christos Tsigaridas, a former member of the Greek urban guerrilla group ELA (Revolutionary People's Struggle), died on June 10 at the age of 80. In 2004, Tsigaridas was sentenced to 25 years for his participation in ELA activities. ELA emerged in the turbulent post-dictatorship period of the 1970s and continued their activities well into the 1990s. Tsigaridas along with three others, were convicted of 41 bombings, 48 attempted murders, the assassination of a police chief and possession of firearms and explosives. The sentence was overturned in 2009.

Arrest of Italian Anarchists

On May 22, Anarchist comrades Juan Antonio Sorroche Fernandez and Manuel Oxoli were arrested in Brescia, Italy for their alleged involvement in the bombing of the headquarters of the far-right wing Lega party in Villorba, Treviso on August 16, 2018.

The Lega is the ruling party of Italy, led by Matteo Salvini, who has aligned himself with fascist and far-right figures around the world, including Trump and Bolsonaro, and supports a racist anti-immigrant policy.

The Italian Anarchist Black Cross has issued a statement: "The lawyer was able to meet his companions and found them strong and determined.

To write to Juan and Manuel Oxoli:: Juan Antonio Sorroche Fernandez Casa Circondariale di Terni, strada delle Campore 32, 05100 Terni, Italia (Italy)

Manuel Oxoli

Casa Circondariale di Monza, via S Quirico 6, 20900 Monza, (Mb), Italia

3 Greek Anarchists Arrested Eric King is Assaulted

On Wednesday 12th of June, three of our anarchist comrades were arrested in Thessaloniki, Greece, while expropriating a guarded money transport that was about to refill an ATM at the university hospital AHEPA.

They were caught from cops of the counter-terrorism unit just when they were getting in their car to leave from the spot.

The two comrades are Giannis Dimitrakis and Kostas Sakkas, who have already served time in prison for political actions. The third comrade, Dimitra, is accused of cooperation in the expropriation. More news will be reported when it becomes available.

San Francisco @ist Treat

On June 1, a modest mob of 20+ anarchists in San Francisco carried out an attack in solidarity with our comrades in Indonesia where 600+ anarchists were arrested this May Day. The consulate was attack with 60 paint bombs and tagged with anarchist symbols. The communique declared, "If we act in solidarity, it is not out of obligation nor out of duty. We act for joy. There is no stronger medicine for despair than the laughter of conspiracy." It called for more actions in solidarity of the imprisoned comrades throughout the month of June.

Billy McKee Passes On

One of the founding members of the Provisional Irish Republican Army has died at age 97. McKee, who died on June 11, 2019, is believed to have joined the struggle in 1939. He served several stints in prison for his role in various operations. During the 1969 splint, creating the Official IRA and the Provisional IRA, McKee sided with the Provos. He became the first OC of the Provisional IRA Belfast Brigade and sat on the Provisional Army Council. In 1972 he led a hunger strike for political status while incarcerated. He was eventually forced off the Army Council by Gerry Adams. While deteriorating health caused his activities to slow, he remained strongly committed to the cause of Irish Independence.

Brenda Christie Passes On

We are saddened to report the passing of Brenda Christie, former participant of the Anarchist Black Cross in the UK. Brenda's partner, Stuart, is know for his involvement helping to re-establish the ABC movement in the later '60s and for being a defendant in the Angry Brigade trial. Both became targets by law enforcement because of their dedication to the anarchist movement. In 1981 Brenda was arrested in West Germany for alleged participation in an attack by the First of May Group. After international protests she was released and the charges were dropped. She will be missed by all. Anarchist political prisoner Eric King is back in segregation after an attack at USP McCreary. Prison staff had expressed knowledge that King was in danger for being an anti-fascist prisoner. Despite this fact, King was allowed to enter general population and was quickly attacked by two fascist prisoners. King was placed back in segregation and may have received a disciplinary hit for defending himself. This will likely mean a loss of visits and commissary. It is asked that people send him articles about Manchester United, the IRA, science, space, etc. – anything of interest. Please give him a shout out.

Eric King 27090045 USP McCreary PO Box 3000 Pine Knot, KY 42635

Judy Clark Released

Judith Clark was paroled on May10th after 38 years in prison. Clark was a member of the Weather Underground and participated in the October 1981 Nyack Brinks armored car robbery. Clark received a 75 year to life is sentence for her role. In 2016, her sentenced was commuted, opening the door for early release. David Gilbert and Mutulu Shakur are the last remaining individuals incarcerated for the expropriation.

Bill Dunne's Hearing

On May 1, 2019, Bill Dunne attended a statutory interim hearing to review his 15-year "hit" he received back in 2014. The original rationale for the hit was due to Dunne's ties to anarchist organizations, including the Anarchist Black Cross, as well as the Running Down the Walls, a 5k run in support of political prisoners.

During the most recent meeting, the main topic of discussion was his presence on political, particularly anarchist, websites. Also discussed were the parole commission's refusal to provide documentation relating to the 15-year "hit," and an incident report for fighting in 2017. Based on Dunne's reporting, the outcome was clear from the beginning. The hearing examiner decided that there was no change in the 2029 reconsideration date due to the fight infraction and the parole commission's position that his affiliation with anarchists is contrary to the welfare of society.

Just so there is no confusion of the facts, Bill Dunne received a lengthy "hit" on his parole hearing because of his affiliation with anarchist organizations. Reviews regarding the "hit" have determined that the "hit" shall remain in effect due to his continue affiliation and support from the anarchist community. His political beliefs are the foundation for his continued incarceration. Yet, the United States continues to argue that there are no political prisons in the US prison system.

Running Down the Walls 2019

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Running Down the Walls. The run was first organized by the L.A. chapter of the Anarchist Black Cross Federation. In solidarity with the first run, political prisoners in USP Leavenworth organized a solidarity run at the same time. This has created the wonderful tradition of runs being organized on both sides of the wall. Over the years we have had runs in Canada, United States and Mexico. Our hope is to expand this event to more prisons, more cities and more continents across the globe.



Chicago



This was Chicago's 2nd time hosting Running Down the Walls. We raised \$700 for the warchest fund. It was fun to see some new faces and that more and more people are hearing about the event and coming out to fight state sponsored oppression. The run was followed by a cookout in Humboldt Park and we discussed plans for next year!

Los Angeles



On June 9, 2019, roughly 30-35 individuals came together at Echo Park Lake to participate in Running Down the Walls (RDTW). This year marks the 20th anniversary of the first run, which began in here in Los Angeles.

The event began around 10:45 with Ian from Los Angeles ABC speaking about the history of RDTW and the purpose of the event. Jessica from Bakersfield ABC updated the participants on her recent visit with Chip Fitzgerald. Various statements from past RDTWs were read, as well as a letter written by Bartolomeo

Vanzetti to Nicola Sacco's son to remind people of the long history of political prisoner support.

Participants included individuals from all over the LA basin, with people from at least three counties being present (Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Bernardino.) We had runners, walkers, parents with children in strollers, bicyclists and even skateboarders - a first for LA's RDTW. It was truly a marvelous day.

At the end of the event we were able to raise over \$3000 for the ABCF Warchest; An exception amount of funds from a single event and something that will truly help our comrades.

We wish to thank the various organization who were present at the event: the Anarchist Black Cross Federation chapters from Orange County, Inland Empire and Bakersfield, La Conxa, Black Coyote Collective, John Brown Solidarity Prisoner Project and Anti-Racist Action. If there were any other organizations that were represented and were not mentioned, our humblest apologies.

Los Angeles ABC does need to offer an apology to our comrades inside and those who normally participate in Running Down the Walls. Normally, LA ABC takes on the responsibility of informing our comrades inside about the event and request written statements from the inside to be read at the events throughout the country. This year we failed to do that. The explanation for this failure is irrelevant and we wish to offer a sincere apology for this failure. It is something that will not be repeated moving forward.

New York

Running Down the Walls 2019 in NYC started in the same way many things start out here, with arriving at the crack of dawn to squat choice real estate in a public park and yelling at some yuppie asshole because he doesn't know the basics of parallel parking. As we set up for the day, passersby stopped to check out the goings on, peruse our display of free literature, and inquire about the 5k. We have noticed year in and year out that setting up in public, with a lot of foot traffic, draws attention and helps begin great conversations with folks who, until that moment, might have never considered that there are political prisoners and prisoners of war in the United States.

By about 1:30 pm, folks started arriving to register for the 5k, as we blasted old episodes of Burning Cop Car to get the people hyped. There were plenty of participants showing up, including many comrades we see once a year, at this event, and a bunch of folks we hadn't met before. If you want to know what makes a day like this amazing, imagine seeing Sekou Odinga riding up on his bicycle as a comrade's toddler wanders after a dog, and a black banner of a clenched anarchist black cross fist blows in the background.

Operating on anarchist time, the 5k started closer to 2:30 than the publicized 2:00 pm, but only after taking a photo around the Running Down the Walls banner, giving folks the rundown on the route, and reading a statement by anarchist political prisoner Jeremy Hammond. With that, folks were off. Thanks to comrades



from NYC Action Medical for being at the ready in case anyone needed medical attention during the event.

After around 23 minutes, the first participant had made the slightly over 5k circuit and was ready for water. After cooling down and catching their breath, they told us that partway through the run, the thing that pushed them to run harder was the knowledge of what folks on the inside go through every day and how participating in this event renewed their strength in supporting imprisoned comrades.

After all of the folks participating in the 5k made there way around the circuit, we enjoyed a huge spread of unspeakable vegan delights. When Sekou Odinga came up to the table, one of his comrades pointed at one of the dishes and implored him to quickly try it, saying, "that one, there...that one's special." But where did he get his protein?!?

In the end, NYC ABC came close to reaching our goal of \$4,000. If you'd like to help push us over the hump, you can still donate at paypal.me/nycabc or check the original event listing for other ways to donate.

The remainder of the day was spent socializing and enjoying a great day in the park, surrounded by comrades old and new. Later that same night, NYC ABC tabled a music night and fund raiser for the anarchist book fair. While there, we talked to a couple of folks who told us that the reason they love Running Down the Walls so much is that it's a reminder that there is revolutionary community in NYC and that it is one of the few times in the year they know they will see a wide-ranging group of folks coming together to have fun, see each other, all while staying focused on those who are still inside. That's what's up and that's how we get down (the walls).

Oakland

A Running Down the Walls event was organized in Oakland at Lake Merritt on June 9, 2019. The run was organized by the East Bay Prisoner Support and Ghosttown Prisoner Support. After the run, the participants gathered for a barbecue. Los Angeles ABC is still waiting for the full report back, but we have received a report that the event was a success. They were able to raised about \$1761. \$961 will be going to the ABCF Warchest. \$400 will be going to both the Oakland IWOC and East Bay Prisoner Support. As soon as we received the report we will publish the it in the next Black Cross Bulletin.

Hamilton

(Hamilton Running Down the Walls took place on June 22nd. While it is tradition for the runs to take place on the same day, Hamilton wanted to provide support for the a Pride celebration in their city that was under attack by the alt-right. Solidarity!)

On a beautiful and bright Saturday in June we gathered in Bayfront Park in Hamilton, Ontario on the territory shared under the Dish with One Spoon treaty, the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, and Mississaguas peoples. We gathered for Running Down The Walls, an event that now in its 20th year not only raises awareness for political prisoners and prison abolition, but also helps raise the spirits of those on the inside and the outside of the fucked up prison system that forces us apart.

This year's run was particularly important because not 24 hours before our event, a comrade was taken from us by the homophobic and transphobic Hamilton Police, and was being held in the very jail that we circled around as part of our 5km route. At the time of this report, Cedar is still on hunger strike.

In the week before the 2019 Hamilton RDTW, a group of queers and allies defended our local Pride celebration from hatespewing homophobes and xenophobes. In the days following the violent confrontation, police took it upon themselves to hunt down the queers that were defending themselves on that day and speaking out against the police actions. https://north-shore.info/2019/06/24/on-guilt-innocence-a-response-to-arrests-following-hamilton-pride/

During our run, we paused at the notorious Barton Jail, where our community members are overdosing and dying in record numbers, abused and neglected by guards. Part of the funds raised from RDTW will be shared with the Barton Prisoner Solidarity Project, a local collective that aims to find ways to "make jails less isolating, less dangerous, less frustrating and

less invisible."

We read inspiring words from anti-imperialist prisoner Jaan Laaman and anarchist prisoner Jeremy Hammond, and a statement from LA-ABCF, who started RDTW two decades ago. We sent our thoughts and gratitude to all of our political prisoners, many of whom who have been behind bars for decades. Thanks to our supporters (and being able to rock some pretty awesome raccoonthemed swag), we raised \$500 for the ABCF Warchest and Barton Prisoner Solidarity Project.

In the face of ongoing repression, it was a joy to move together and share love with our friends on both sides of prison walls. As Jaan Laaman reminds us, "Freedom is a constant struggle!"



12 Anarchists Acquitted in Belgium

For years the Belgian government has been attempting to build a case against twelve anarchists/anti-authoritarians, fostering a conspiracy theory of a massive anarchist plot through government prosecution and the media. Now it looks as if the conspiracy theory and the case related to it has begun to fully unravel. After years of going through court proceedings and their reputation dragged through the mud, the twelve comrades have received the wonderful news that they have been acquitted of all charges.

The case against the twelve began in late 2008 when the Belgian Federal Prosecutor launched an investigation against the anarchist and anti-authoritarian community after various actions were carried out in solidarity with the Greek protests. The Greek protests were triggered assassination the Alexis bv of Grigoropoulos. Due to further actions attributed to anarchists, including those against the construction of a new detention center in Steenokkerzeel, the investigation intensified against the movement.

Between May and September of 2013, police raided over a dozen homes and the anarchist library, Arcata, in Brussels. It is at this point that the anti-terrorist investigation against the anarchist movement began to solidify, led by the Federal Judicial Police and the General Intelligence and Security Agency of the military. When the investigation came to the conclusion in 2014, twelve comrades were looking at 29 individual charges.

Nine individuals were accused of belonging to a terrorist organization and involvement in terrorist activities, with three of them accused of being leaders of the organization. Additional charges ranged from attempted arson and terrorist offenses related to demonstration outside of the detention center in Steenokkerzeel, terrorist acts relating to an attack on the police station in Marolles, assault and wounding of a police officers on several occasions, obstruction of the public road, damage in various forms, shoplifting, arson of a prison guards' car to incitement to commit terrorist offenses. Not all charges were filed against all twelve and each received various charges as individuals.

Three other individuals were arrested in relation to the attack on a police station in Marolles, Brussels and were also accused of belonging to this terrorist group.

The State's case against the anarchists was extensive, producing over 32 boxes of case files and evidence. As they developed the conspiracy of this "anarchist terrorist group", the State claimed the group was possibly responsible for 150 attacks target-



ing police stations, courts, banks, companies, construction sites, cars of diplomats, Eurocrats and NATO officials, mobile phone antennas between 2008 and 2013. Those charged were accused of participating or supporting the actions in some capacity.

As part of the investigation, the State used various tools to entrap the suspected anarchist terrorist, including tailing, phone tapping, microphones in a comrades' house, secret house searches, infiltration attempts, placing surveillance cameras outside of comrades' houses and in one case, inside.

Between October 2015 and August 2018, court proceedings were scheduled to lay out the parameters relating to the prosecution of the comrades. It is determined that the official language of the trial will be in French and the trial was scheduled for April 29th, 2019.

When the formal charges against the twelve were revealed, it was clear that the State's case against the twelve was beginning to deteriorate. The prosecution withdrew its charges claiming that the individuals belonged to a terrorist group. The State also dropped the charged related to the attack on the police stations in Marolles, the arson of prison guards' cars, forgery, shoplifting, and incitement to commit terrorist acts.

On the other hand, the State altered the charges from "participation to a terrorist group" to "members of an association formed for the purposes of attacking people or property, through the perpetration of crimes or offenses" (9 people accused.) The also changed the charges against three of the accused from "leaders of a terrorist group" into "provocateurs or leaders of an association formed for the purpose of attacking people or property, through the perpetration of crimes and offenses" (3 people accused).

Other charges included the following:

• Attempted arson of a detention center for migrants in Steenokkerzeel during a demonstration outside the center on 21st January 2009 (a charge against 8 people) • Having assaulted or resisted with violence and threats six policemen during the demonstration outside the Steenokkerzeel detention center for migrants on 21st January 2009 (8 accused)

• Having threatened a neighbor who called the police during a gathering with fireworks outside the prison of Forest on 4th October 2010 (a charge against 3 people)

• Property damage (or attempt to) of two limousines in the vicinity of the 'Subversive books gathering' in Saint-Josse-ten-Noode on 15th October 2011, with the aggravating circumstance of 'being motivated by hate' (in this case, against the rich) (a charge against 3 people)

• Bodily harm to two limousine drivers during the same fight on 15th October 2011 (a charge against 3 people)

• Bodily harm on a police officer during the night of 1st October 2010 in Brussels (a charge against 1 person)

• Having attacked or resisted with violence and threats two policemen during a demonstration in Anderlecht on 12th November 2010 (a charge against 2 people)

• Fabrication and transport of weapons, in particular, bent nails and iron bars, on 1st October 2010 and on 12th November 2010 (a charge against 4 people)

• Having insulted European Union civil servants in the Schuman metro station, with the aggravating circumstance of 'being motivated by hate' (a charge against 3 people)

• Graffiti on three occasions (Molenbeek, Saint-Josse, and Schuman), for some with the aggravating circumstance of 'being motivated by hate' (against the rich and European Union civil servants) (a charge against 7 people)

• Blocking of the traffic during the fight on 15th October 2011 and during the demonstration in Anderlecht on 12th November 2010 (a charge against 4 people)

• Having publicly self-attributed the title of an honorary lawyer (a charge against 2 people)

When the trial began, only two defendants attended the trial. While the other ten were not present, lawyers were there on their behalf. The two defendants present refused to answer the judge's question.

Despite all the hype surrounding the case, the State proposed a deal to the defendants that included:

• 300 hours' work or a prison sentence of 4 years (1 person)

• 250 hours' work or a prison sentence of 3 years (2 persons)

• 200 hours' work or a prison sentence of 30 months (4 persons)

• 150 hours' work or a prison sentence

of 18 months (1 person)

- 100 hours' work or a prison sentence
- of 12 months (1 person)
- 12 months' suspended sentence or a fine of 50 euros (1 person)
- Acquittal (2 persons)

The accused refused to accept the agreement and as such the judge was set to determine the fate of the twelve. On May 28, the judge ruled the proceeding to be inadmissible and they 12 were acquitted.

After years of the State and media attacking the credibility of the twelve comrades and the movement itself, the case was a complete failure for the status quo. With every step the case got weaker. If it wasn't for the commitment and determination of those who stood against the State, their future would have bleak. They stood, not only for their own freedom, but for the rest of the movement and the liberty of all those in the streets. However, the battle is far from over. The prosecutor has 40 days to appeal this ruling and it is yet to be determined whether the fight for their freedom will continue. Other comrades in Belgium are also on trial for different action. One thing is certain, these individual will stand strong and resist whatever the State attempts to throw at them. We must stand with them and they resist the State and its ridiculous allegations.

June 11th - Day of Solidarity for Long-term Anarchist Prisoners

In 2010, supporters of Marius Mason and Eric King got together to discuss how to provide more tangible support for anarchist prisoners. An idea was born to have one day of solidarity and actions across the globe demanding the freedom of long-term anarchist prisoners. The date was taken from annual Day of Solidarity for Jeffrey Luers. Since the original call out for actions, anarchists across the globe have engage in direction action in support of our imprisoned comrades. Actions include letter writing, putting up posters, banner drops to stronger actions of solidarity. Regardless the action, the message is clear that anarchists across the globe will not forget our imprisoned comrades and will continue to support them until they are free. For more info check out: https://june11.noblogs.org

Marius Mason's Statement on June 11th

I can hardly believe that it has been another year passing and it is J11 again. I am so thankful for this annual touch point as an opportunity to reach out to my community on the outside and to take stock of the year. It is hard to take in that I have been locked up for more than a decade, and even more sobering to realize how many comrades have been incarcerated for MULTIPLE decades. They have my infinite admiration for maintaining their integrity and for keeping their vision alive through so many years.

I always want to thank all the good folks who do solidarity events to mark this day. I am sure that as I do, all of the anarchist prisoners draw much strength and courage from knowing that you all have our back and have worked so hard to send that immense love across borders and through the bars. There has been way too much hate and "othering" around borders these days. It's a powerful message to send love instead, and to question the legitimacy of any borders that separate or devalue us as living beings, all equally sharing this planet.

Things are well with me. I continue to advocate for my medical transition and to work on our diversity committee here to educate on trans issues. My transfer to the Danbury Federal Correctional Institution, in a low security facility, has revealed yet another kind of space created for incarceration. It is a very space, smaller scale (about 150 prisoners) and both more and less restrictive. I am getting to know what the ground rules are, getting to know my fellow prisoners here. I have not been a lot of places in the free world, but I feel like I have now seen a number of sides to the B.O.P. I plan on writing more about this place soon.

I get a lot of my information about the free world from books, and would like to share a little about two of those. Ann Hansen's Taking the Rap: Women Doing Time for Society's Crimes really resonated with me both in describing the effects of the different levels of personal autonomy in different kinds of prisons that she lived in (from a max to a no-fences condo/group home)- but also in how difficult it could be to navigate how a political prisoner could offer support to their fellow prisoners respectfully. The concept of accompaniment, which I first heard of from Alice and Staughton Lynd doing labor organizing in poor communities, seems really applicable to many of Hansen's observations. I have often felt this year that the best help that I could offer to other prisoners was to walk their walk with them, to comfort and to listen, to be a mentor in the RDAP (drug rehab) program at Carswell and to join in the FIT program here at Danbury – to sing with them, to engage in dynamic discussions of values and history and to encourage mutual aid and respect. It feels important to hold those who are ill or damaged, especially, as that builds strength for all of us.

This signifies a significant change in perspective on social change for me. Much of my political work has been reactive, single-issue and confrontational. I was always a firm believer in intersectionality, moving between issues, movements and identities – but I was not very effective at building or even articulating some clear vision of the world that I hoped to help create. This brings me to the second book that I found so inspirational, adrienne maree brown's Emergent Strategies: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds. The book weaves together many voices calling for and developing collaborations to create workable solutions to shared problems in a way that embodies the egalitarian society we desire. What I loved so much about the book was its embrace of the process as opposed to focusing on the end-result... and seeing that process of change as a victory in itself.

What is true is that I have traded my freedom and everything I held dear in the free world for a chance at building a new world by resisting the old. I made many, many mistakes and some terrible decisions in that passionate quest. I am humbled by this, but not embittered. Because, if there is dialogue, reflection, and analysis - then perhaps there can be some worth-while lesson found in my experience that could benefit any resistance movement in its growth. And it is that study of our collective history and legacy of struggle that helps me to see my efforts as a small stream joining that great river of change. brown speaks of this in her book; that we can learn to be like water, ever adapting to conditions and becoming what we need to be to push us forward towards freedom.

Love and solidarity, **Marie (Marius) Mason** 04672-061 FCI DANBURY Route 37 Danbury, CT 06811

June 11th 2019 Solidarity Message

by Jeremy Hammond

A raised fist to you all this June 11th! May this letter find you in revolutionary health and spirits. Although I am unable to be with you physically on this occasion due to being held in captivity by the BOP, I still feel connected with you on this day of solidarity. It was nice to run the 5K with you a few days ago for Running Down The Walls. I also sent out a few dozen origami models decorated with June 11th anarchist tattoos; you should be receiving those shortly.

Big ups to the other anarchist comrades behind bars. We have been through a lot of trials and tribulations over the years: harassment from abusive guards, solitary confinement, diesel therapy, the mindnumbing frustrations from battling the brutal bureaucracy for so many years. Never have we been alone, however.

Despite every effort the system has made to cut us off from our friends and loved ones, from disconnecting us from the rotations of the Earth, we have still been able to stay connected to the movement. The letters, the books, the messages of encouragement – by undermining the punitive, isolating deterrent effect of the prison system, we are strengthened to keep struggling through the storm.

For all this, I want to express my appreciation for the Anarchist Black Cross chapters, the Books to Prisoners groups, the Friends of AK Press book club, those who sent in their personal zines: your work has an immeasurable positive effect on our lives behind bars. Know that every prison library we've passed through is saturated with radical literature, ready for the next curious soul looking for something interesting to check out. Also inspiring are the various solidarity actions, hearing that people are still out there taking direct action to destroy the old world and manifest new ones. Where we are, we often aren't in the best position to be hacking and smashing things ourselves, but we can still rest easy knowing that things are still being hacked and smashed.

"Though I have regrets about not carrying out my actions with complete precision, I have never once regretted my involvement in the anarchist movement or committing the specific Anonymous activities that have led to my incarceration." - Jeremy

This June 11th also falls on the yearly "Officer Appreciation Week" (a separate event from the National Police Week last month). Across the federal prison system, we are locked down in our cells during the day while the pigs feast on fancy food from the free world, throw basketball tournaments, and give each other cheap awards manufactured by prisoners.

They clap each other on the back when all the while their brethren continue to get away with murdering innocent people in the streets. It's hard to imagine what sickeningly nationalistic sociopath could support such a week – but then again, this is the United States, headed by a fascist pig that pardons racist police and war criminals! Watching the sky fucking fall from afar, it is sometimes frustrating not being able to do much about it. I'm often asked was all worth it, and how I have kept from being burnt out. Though I have regrets about not carrying out my actions with complete precision, I have never once regretted my involvement in the anarchist movement or committing the specific Anonymous activities that have led to my incarceration.

My only regret is that I didn't carry out my actions with complete precision, and that I was caught too early before I could complete many other half-finished plans!

Reflecting on this year's theme of combating amnesia, drawing inspiration, and looking to previous generations, I thought about some things I recently read in Nelson Mandela's autobiography Long Walk to Freedom. On multiple occasions, the authorities offered him release from prison if he would only renounce his actions and condemn the use of violence. Each and every time, he refused to turn his back against his comrades!

There is no greater integrity than those who have been tested and stayed true, keeping their heads up high for so, so long. Having developed an appreciation for the immense gravity and preciousness of time, I want to express my deepest respects for you all serving long-term sentences, and commit myself to work towards your immediate and unconditional release.

Until the last prisoner is freed and the last prison burned to the ground!

Jeremy Hammond, #18729-424 FCI Memphis P.O. Box 34550 Memphis, TN 38184

Statement by Mexican Anarchist Political Prisoner Miguel Peralta

Greetings to all of the comrades who receive these sincere words.

It's not easy to say these two vast words: LONG-TERM SENTENCE. When we already know that their justice and carceral systems are worth nothing. The judicial apparatus and the criminals hide their faces behind the scales of justice, they distort and file documents in order to imprison the comrades who struggle against the establishment. They are hungry for flesh.

Similarly, it is difficult to adapt to isolation. We cannot allow ourselves to watch the days, months, and years pass on the calendar, while we endure the humiliation. We must fight the fear that prison generates and the sicknesses that we acquire here on a daily basis. We cannot stop searching for alternatives and improvising resistance as if we don't have "the boot to our neck". This is also a difficult task.

Long and enduring resistance could be the answer to these impositions, long and enduring struggle. Although it robs us of our energy, I think that our spirit will resist and keep beating like our enraged hearts, longing to walk, FREE!! One day we will manage to snatch back the days and nights that they have robbed from us, comrades.

Freedom to the Prisoners! Down with the Prison Walls!

Miguel Peralta San Juan Bautista Cuicatlán, Oaxaca

(For more information about Miguel Peralta, please contact Mexico Anarchist Black Cross at: cna.mex@gmail.com)



Veronza Bowers Denied Parole Again

In late May it was reported that Veronza Bowers. Jr. has once again been denied parole. This news is just another cruel reminder of the injustice the US legal system has dealt with the 73-year-old political prison, now serving his 46th of incarceration.

Bowers, a former member of the Black Panther Party in Richmond, CA, has been serving a life sentence in federal prisons for the killing of a park ranger in 1973. Bowers was to be paroled in 2005, but the government refused to release him. Due to political pressure from the Fraternal Order of Police, Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez allowed for National Appeals Board to review the decision made by the U.S. Parole Commission. The Appeals Board used the excused to reverse the decision based on Bowers attempted to escape from USP Lompoc in 1979.

Since then the battle for Bowers' freedom has been in the courts, where the State seems to be having the upper hand. The most recent news just another indication that the State is determined to keep Bowers kept behind the prison walls.

In a message received by supporters on May 30, Veronza writes: "The way I look at the news is that it is neither bad nor good; it just IS what it is. And once received, then we can move forward. "I do appreciate very much that people are very concerned about me. Please let folks know that I am fine. I talked with my Freedom Team today and they are busy preparing our next step.

"In short, we are not giving up. And I am confident that truth and justice are on my side and that I will be taking my long overdue long walk to FREEDOM in the not too distant future.

Send our brother some love and light:

Veronza Bowers Jr., 35316-136, Butner FMC, P.O. Box 1600, Butner NC 27509.

Media Denied Access to Ed Poindexter

In May it was reported that Edward Poindexter has been denied a news media interview. Apparently, the reason for the denial was a recent ban on recording equipment and a requirement to be on an inmate's personal visiting list of friends and family.

Edward Poindexter, along with Mondo we Langa, known as the "Omaha Two," has been in prison for the 1970 bombing that killed one officer. Since their conviction for the crime, evidence has come to light suggesting that not only are the men innocent of the crime for which they are accused but that they were targeted as part of the FBI's COINTELPRO.

Michael Richardson, a long-time supporter of the Omaha Two, notified the Department of Corrections of his intent to interview Poindexter. His request was denied and he was not even allowed to visit Poindexter without the recording equipment. The move by the Department of Corrections (DOC) is unusual since there has been a long-standing practice of media's access prisoners and Richardson interviewed Poindexter in 2016.

It seems that this course of action is being led by personally by the Director of Corrections, Scott Frakes, who was responsible for Richardson's denial. To further add insult to injury, Frakes has ensured that Richardson has been taken off of Poindexter's visitation list. The DOC has indicated that the reason for the action was because of the need to go through a background check. But Richardson completed this process in 2016. Richardson, in response to this explanation, requested a background check form, but it was not provided.

It should be noted that Michael Richardson was on a book tour, promoting his book on the Omaha Two, "Framed: J. Edgar Hoover, COINTELPRO & the Omaha Two story." There is little doubt that this current action by the DOC is because of the ongoing attention on the Omaha case thanks to the hard work of Richardson and others like him.



Philly ABC's Application to the Federation

Hello members of the Anarchist Black Cross Federation:

The new(ish) iteration of Philly ABC would like to submit the following as a formal request to be recognized as a Support Group of the ABCF.

Since our inception (in fall of 2017) we have been discussing the possibility of joining the Federation and reviewing and discussion Federation materials. After discussions I've had with other members of our group regarding my positive experiences as part of the Federation, we have decided as a group to apply for support group status.

Philly ABC currently consists of seven active members. In addition to the monthly letter-writing events we have been holding for the past two years, we have also hosted a movie night, a RDTW and a Martyr's Ball. We will hold our second RDTW event this September around the time of our two-year anniversary. We might be able to coordinate our timing around other ABCF chapters in future years, but this year end of summer/fall worked better for us again. We are also the primary admins for the database of PPs/POWs initiated by LAABCF (formerly hosted at prisonersolidarity.net, we are in the process of transferring it to political prisoners.net).

Outside of ABC work, members of our group are active in other local social justice struggles, self-defense trainings, and we have close ties to local current and former pps and their families. In addition to pps/pows recognized by the ABCF, we support local politicized prisoners such as the Vaughn 17. We plan to continue the work we have been doing and take it to a more intensive level in the coming years.

We look forward to working with y'all, Odette

(Editor's Note: Philadelphia ABC has been voted into the ABC Federation by all chapters. We wish to welcome our comrades into the organization and look forward to working with them.)

Repression on Both Sides of the Border

With the Trump administration's hard stance on immigration, human rights and social justice organizations have been outraged over the dehumanization of migrants, the separation of families and building of concentration camps through out the United States. Groups on both sides of the border have been mobilizing to undermine the current policies of this hardright state.

Now human rights organization are being targeted in the US and Mexico for their actions in solidarity with migrants attempting to escape violence and poverty in their home countries.

One group that has been the targeted for their human rights work has been No More Deaths, an advocacy group based in Arizona, that seeks to end the deaths of undocumented immigrants crossing the desert regions near the United States-Mexico border. The group provides for basic necessities, such as food, water, clothing and shelter to those enduring the journey to the United States.

In the summer of 2017, several activists from No More Deaths were stopped and cited for various actions in

support of the migrants. In December of 2017, nine No More Deaths volunteers were charged with misdemeanors for providing humanitarian aid to migrants.

Four of the group went to trial in January 2019. Natalie Hoffman, Oona Holcomb, Madeline Huse and Zaachila Orozco-McCormick were convicted on three misdemeanor counts, and were sentenced to pay fines of \$250 each and 15 months of unsupervised probation.

Criminal charges against another four volunteers (Caitlin Deighan, Zoe Anderson, Logan Hollarsmith and Rebecca Grossman) were dropped in return for accepting civil responsibility and paying \$250 each.

The ninth person charged with the misdemeanor was Scott Warren. His trial was held in May, but the judge has yet to reach a verdict. Warren was also charged with two counts of felony harboring and one count of conspiracy. This stemmed from a January 2018 incident where police accused him of transporting two migrants. He faced up to twenty years in prison with these charges. However, on June 11th, a judge declared a mistrial after a jury was unable to reach a verdict. The jury was in a 8-4 deadlock in favor of Warren. Federal prosecutors will decide if they will retry the case by early July.

On June 5th two other advocates for migrants' rights were detained in Mexico. They have been accused of human trafficking. Irineo Mujica, director of a migrant advocacy organization, Pueblo Sin Fronteras (People Without Borders), is part of a group that has helped several large migrant caravans cross Mexico. He was arrested in Sonoyta, Sonora, at about the same time activist Cristóbal Sánchez was detained outside his home in the Mexico City borough of Xochimilco

It is no coincidence that Irineo and Cristóbal were arrested the same day as the Mexican secretary of foreign relations met in Washington D.C. with United States Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo within the framework of the threats to increase tariffs on Mexican products. Mexico will surely attempt to make an example out of these men in order to appease the Trump adminstrations xenophobic and racist political agenda and policies.

FREQUENTLY USED Acronyms/ Terms

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

<u>ABC-BG</u>: Branch Group - ABCF group with more responsibilities than a SG.

<u>ABC-SG:</u> Support Group - ABCF group with fewer responsibilities than a BG.

<u>AIM:</u> American Indian Movement - above ground revolutionary organization of Native Americans.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<u>PP/POWs:</u> Political Prisoners and/or Prisoners of War. (See page 1.)

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

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

<u>SDS:</u> Students for a Democratic Society - left student group founded in the '60s.

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

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

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

\$127,000 Raised Through the Warchest Program! SUPPORT THE ABCF WARCHEST

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



Founded in 1994, the Warchest has provided consistent and reliable financial aid, serving a much-neglected comradely function. Since its inception, the ABCF has raised

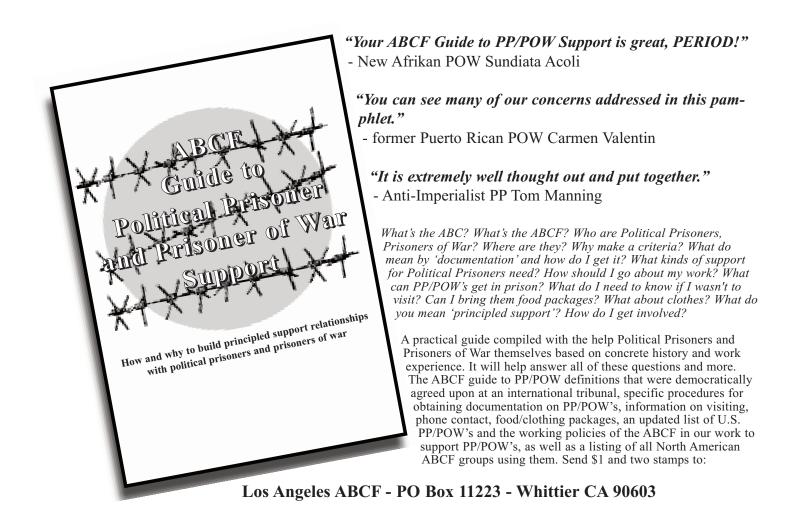
nearly \$130,000 with just this one program. All funds raised go directly to the political prisoners, for which the program is designed. Despite our success, our comrades are still in dire need of funds. Endorse this program by giving a monthly or one-time donation to increase the number of prisoners being supported monthly. A financial report is published that documents all money received and the prisoner it was sent to. This is done in order to be as accountable as we can to the prisoners and the movement.

FUNDS IN	JAN	FE	в	M	AR	APR	MAY	JUN
Marcin Wolynski	5	5	5		5	5	5	5
David Torcivia	10	10		1	10	10	10	10
Rori/NC J20 Support	3000	0		0		0	0	0
Daniel Hamlyn	50	0		0		0	0	0
Kenny McKenzie	0	0		0		0	0	60
Anthony Birkin	0	0		0		0	0	18
Bakersfield ABCF	0	0	0		0	0	0	100
Matt Roberts	10	10	,	0		0	0	0
Sarah Ollie	193	193	3	193		193	0	0
FUNDS OUT		JAN	FEE	3 1	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
MUTULU SHAKUR		40	40	╈	40	40	40	40
OSO BLANCO		40	40		40	40	40	40
TOM MANNING		40	40		40	40	40	40
JAAN LAAMAN		40	40		40	40	40	40
SUNDIATA ACOLI		40	40		40	40	40	40
ALVARO HERNANDEZ		40	40		40	40	40	40
JOSEPH BOWEN		40	40		40	40	40	40
JALIL MUNTAQIM	JALIL MUNTAQIM		40		40	40	40	40
MALIK SMITH		40	40		40	40	40	40
HANIFF BEY		40	40		40	40	40	40
RUCHELL MAGEE		40	40		40	40	40	40
VERONZA BOWERS		40	40		40	40	40	40
ERIC KING		40	40		40	40	40	40
ABDUL AZEEZ		0	0		0	0	40	40
ED POINDEXTER		0	0		0	0	40	40
JANET AFRICA		0	0		0	0	0	500
JANINE AFRICA		0	0		0	0	0	500

FUNDS IN		FUNDS OUT		
1994	351	1994	120	
1995	3860	1995	2796	
1996	4143	1996	4308	
1997	3544	1997	4588	
1998	7643	1998	6412	
1999	5814	1999	5191	
2000	3514	2000	4544	
2001	5290	2001	4637	
2002	2873	2002	4320	
2003	1785	2003	1300	
2004	0*	2004	0*	
2005	4439	2005	2620	
2006	3268	2006	2880	
2007	4312	2007	3471	
2008	3448	2008	3750	
2009	6468	2009	3700	
2010	6225	2010	5200	
2011	5867	2011	7730	
2012	4795	2012	6480	
2013	4633	2013	5360	
2014	6004	2014	4880	
2015	7657	2015	4960	
2016	9406	2016	5200	
2017	9098	2017	6420	
2018	8470	2018	7700	
2019	4110	2019	4280	
TOTAL	\$127,017	TOTAL	\$112,847	

Send cash,checks or mos made to <u>TIM FASNACHT</u> to: Lancaster ABCF • P.O Box 8682 • Lancaster, PA 17604 • timABCF@aol.com

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





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



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