

ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT

SUPPORTERS GROUP

AUGUST
2010

Inside this issue:

*Email a prisoner update,
Prisoner news,
Letters from prisoners
(including Mexico),
Animal liberation pictures,
International gathering
report and more...*



For up to date prisoner listings and prisoner news, go to our web site at:
www.alfsq.org.uk



Jonny Ablewhite



Gregg Avery



Natasha Avery



Nathan Block



Walter Bond



Mel Broughton



Alex Hall



Kevin Kjonaas



Marie Mason



Eric McDavid



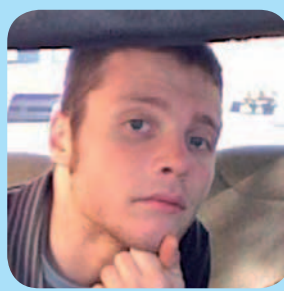
Daniel McGowan



Gavin Med-Hall



Heather Nicholson



Kevin Olliff



Johnathan Paul



Gerrah Selby



William James Viehl



Nicole Vosper



Dan Wadham



Briana Waters



Kerry Whitburn



Sarah Whitehead



Joyanna Zacher

RELEASES SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

Lewis Pogson (UK prisoner) was released on 17th June 2010

Dan Amos (UK SHAC prisoner) was released on 30th July 2010

Rob Griffiths (UK prisoner) was released on 11th August 2010

Editorial

Welcome to another edition of the SG Newsletter. It's four months since our last newsletter and there have been quite a few prisoner changes, with a new prisoner in the US, three UK prisoner releases and Mel Broughton being found guilty - again! (See the article on page 6). Along with letters from aspiring Mexican activists, there is plenty to read about and hopefully act on.

The Austrian trial is on-going against 13 activists and is expected to go on into November/December, for more details go to: <http://www.shameonaustria.org/en/index.php>.

In the US, Jordan Halliday is awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to "Criminal Contempt of Court" on July 27, 2010. The charge is unique as it is neither a felony nor a misdemeanour, he is only the third person in the US that has been charged with this offence. He is awaiting sentencing on October 19, 2010. For more information on his case, see: <http://www.supportjordan.com/>

Also, the next SHAC trial in the UK with 6 activists in court is expected to start in September and may well last for 3 months, along with an upcoming trial against alleged mink liberationists in The Netherlands.

But the fight will always continue as the issues are too big and too important to do nothing, we have a duty as compassionate, responsible users of this planet, to hammer home the reality of the abuse and oppression that we see very clearly with our own eyes. The determination of the abusers and governments is clear to see across the globe as our struggle becomes more global and more effective. But our resolve and goals towards total animal liberation are as strong as ever with liberations and actions continuing across the world.

And whatever problems we face as humans during our lifetimes, they generally are not as violent as those which non-human animals have to endure by their human oppressors, and without us, compassionate people, their misery and suffering would be ignored. We don't expect everyone to risk their liberty, but we must not be afraid to do all we can within our power to make changes for the better.

The SG and other prisoner support groups, like the VPSG and ARPS will continue to support those that do get penalised for acting to stop real violence. And the support and solidarity that animal rights prisoners of conscience receive is much needed and great appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.

If you wish to join the ALF SG you can use the form on the back cover of this newsletter or obtain more details from: ALF SG, BM Box 1160, London WC1N 3XX or email us at: info@alfsg.org.uk, website: www.alfsg.org.uk



THE ALF SG

The ALF SG's role is to support financially, practically and morally, those brave men and women who end up in prison as a result of their actions on behalf of animals. This is a vital part of the movement, and we in turn depend on our members and supporters to enable us to help the prisoners at a time when they are most in need. We are separate to the ALF, and we operate legally and above ground. This vital work has continued unceasingly over the years, along with other like minded organisations who support animal rights prisoners. If you would like to join the ALF SG and help support our work, please fill out the membership form on the back cover.

GLOBAL LIBERATIONS

COMPASSIONATE PEOPLE ON EVERY CONTINENT
THE MOVEMENT & STRUGGLE CONTINUES TO GROW...



Mexico



Mexico



Mexican activists have continued with many actions and liberations, including liberating turtles, 2 lots of rabbits and many caged birds over the past few months.



Spain



Spain



Liberations continue in Spain too with chickens, rabbits and dogs being given loving, life-long homes away from cages and abuse to live out their lives without fear or pain in safety.



Sweden



Italy

32 rabbits are freed from their cages. The rabbits were living in appalling conditions.

214 hens were freed in the biggest battery hen liberation (so far) in Sweden.

3 pigs were taken away from an industrial 'farm'. This liberation is part of a wider investigation of intensive pig farms in Italy, the results of which will be released in the future.



New Zealand

Freedom and safety for 18 hens from broiler and battery units. (front cover).

Also, over the past few months the following have been liberated:

- Dogs taken from a breeder in Austria.
- 2 lots of rabbits rescues in Switzerland.
- Hundreds of partridges freed in Italy.
- 300 quail released in Italy.
- Other caged birds freed in Mexico.
- Wild pigs freed in the USA.
- With many liberations unreported...

Be the change you want to see, we can all make a difference to those with no voice. We have a moral duty that will not be swayed until we achieve our goals.

Liberations in the last four months include: Italy, Switzerland, New Zealand, Spain, Mexico, USA and Austria.

With other actions in Germany, Sweden, Italy, Spain, Mexico, USA, Netherlands, UK, Russia, Ireland, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Switzerland, Finland, Chile, France, Israel, Argentina and Canada.



MAKING CONTACT WITH PRISONERS

Write to UK animal rights prisoners via email

Did you know that it is possible to write to many prisoners in the UK via the “**emailprisoner**” service for just 25p per letter, cheaper, quicker and more convenient than conventional mail. Most UK prisons are either part of the scheme or are set to join in the near future. You have to pay in advance and register with an email address and password.

It's a really great way to keep our comrades in touch with the outside world. For example, if you see some news online or in an email, you can just copy and paste it into an email and send it directly to the prisoner, with some news of your own perhaps. Or why not put a few stories and some news together, as you get 2,500 characters per email.

These prisoners can already receive emails:

Gregg Avery & Gavin Med-Hall (HMP Coldingley)
Natasha Avery (HMP Send)
Heather Nicholson (HMP Foston Hall)
Nicole Vosper & Sarah Whitehead (HMP Bronzefield)
Kerry Whitburn (HMP Lowdham Grange)
Dan Wadham (HMP Camp Hill)
Mel Broughton (HMP Bullingdon)

Soon it should be possible to write to all UK prisoners. On the website there is a list of prisons you can write to, and also urge other prisons to introduce the scheme as well. For more details see: www.emailprisoner.com/

International AR gathering in Italy

The International Animal Rights Gathering 2010 was held in Venaus, Italy, from July 8th to 11th. In a wonderful place in the middle of the Alps where more than 300 activists from 23 countries gathered to share skills, experiences and ideas.

The place that hosted the gathering is a resistance camp against the High Speed Train (TAV) project, created back in 2005 after 90,000 people, mostly locals, marched in the mountains, broke police cordons and took back their land to oppose the destruction of these lovely mountains. A video of their struggle was aired on the first night. There was much positive reaction from the locals and while building the camp for AR2010 we had a lot of help with the infrastructure and other needs and during the gathering itself everyone appreciated how local food shops created “vegan only” corners and neighbours were always smiling and nice. We even had the mayor of the town coming to the reception asking if everything was alright and if we needed anything and he opened a private space to let us park all the cars!

The gathering started on Thursday afternoon with a 200 strong march in the city centre of Torino (Turin), informing people about the horrors of vivisection and specifically about the new campaign against Green Hill (owned by Marshall Farms) in Montichiari, Italy, who are breeders of beagles for vivisection labs like the notorious HLS. After the march, buses were filled with activists from many parts of the world who then travelled to the camp for some vegan food, ready to start the gathering itself.

The gathering was full of workshops during the day, covering almost all aspects of activism and with a strong practical approach. Apart from sharing ideas it was really important to share skills and let people go back home with new skills, projects and new possibilities to help their groups and campaigns. We also started for the first time what we called “drop-in sessions” or mentoring, with a few activists available everyday to give one-to-one advice on computer security, design, climbing trees and civil disobedience actions which proved very popular to name a few.

One of the main aspects covered by many workshops were different investigations of animal abuse by grass roots activists who over the past year took part in many investigations all around Europe in different areas of abuse. All their projects, experiences and technical skills were shared during the days of the gathering. These investigations undeniably had an impact on animal abusing industries.

Also, appreciating some really nice Italian vegan food, lovely weather and beautiful scenery, there was also time for some fun too which every year helps to create stronger bonds and friendships. Although organising the gathering is a lot of work, it was also a great experience. We hope the gathering was good, useful and productive for all the attending activists as they were for us. We hope to see more of you at the next gathering in 2011 in The Netherlands!

Writing to prisoners

We live in a world where profit and property are valued over life and compassion, where those who try to stop suffering are seen as criminals and terrorists because they threaten the economic system and the status quo. As long as this continues to be the case, it is vital we support those activists who make the ultimate sacrifice. Receiving letters from the outside helps to stop these prisoners feeling isolated and other prisoners are always amazed at the amount of mail animal rights prisoners receive.

When you first start up correspondence with a prisoner, try not to ask specific questions, so prisoners don't feel under pressure to give a response. Please don't feel offended if you don't get a reply, or if a reply is a long time coming, as animal rights prisoners often receive large amounts of mail. They also frequently have ongoing legal matters to deal with, which can be a lengthy process. Consideration must be given to the fact that prisoners may not have time or that they may not feel like writing.

Keep letters positive, talk about what is going on in your daily life or just send a bright card with a short note or a favourite quote. You can buy small packets of cards from many stationers and card shops which are really useful for keeping in touch with the prisoners. They are all very much appreciated and don't forget to send them an SAE, thank you for your support!

We are not extreme, but the rhetoric is...

They call us terrorists. But what is terrorism? Terrorism is valuing artificial borders over life. It is killing civilians in the name of "war." It is killing anyone in the name of "war." It is flying planes into buildings, no matter what country the perpetrator is from. Terrorism is using rape as a tool for war. Terrorism is tearing down rainforests, stripping the land of entire species of animals and plant life for the sake of capitalist gain. Terrorism is raping animals, kidnapping and imprisoning their babies just to force them to grow up in overcrowded conditions and have their body parts (like beaks, tails and talons) cut off, only to haul them off to a scary painful slaughter so some humans can eat their flesh.

Animal rights activists are not terrorists. Terror means fear, but we fight for life.

They call us extreme, but what is extreme? Extreme is the animals being slaughtered for food in the world every single second of every single day. Extreme is labeling legal protest activity terrorism. It is allowing a person to die from lack of shelter or health care because they are poor or lack the appropriate citizenship status. Extreme is imprisoning people and not charging them with any crimes, then holding them without legal representation. It is dairy ads claiming, "milk does a body good," when it actually leeches calcium from bones. Extreme is the fact that Monsanto was actually allowed to patent and "own" food seeds. Factory farming is extreme. Murdering animals to take their fur is extreme. Beating animals so they will perform "cute" tricks is extreme.

Animal rights activists are not extreme. Rejecting violence is anything but extreme. It is simply logical. Extreme means irrational, but we fight for love and against exploitation; these are the most loving, rational and basic things a person can fight for.

Animal rights activists fight for equality and the right for everyone to live a life free of exploitation and pain. We are not terrorists and we are not extremists. No matter how many times it is said, no matter how many laws are passed, no matter how many activists are imprisoned, we will never be terrorists and we are not extreme.

Animal rights activists choose life over death and compassion over violence. Artificial borders, be they between nations or ethnicities or genders or species, are never justification for exploitation for murder. Rejection of these things in favour of life is not terror and it is certainly not extreme, it is simply love.

Taken from Bold Native website

Mel Broughton found guilty at second re-trial

After yet another re-trial in July, Mel was re-convicted of conspiracy to commit arson in relation to firebomb attacks on buildings associated with Oxford University, as part of the campaign against the building of the new animal testing laboratory on South Parks Road.

The Police claimed that two devices which failed to ignite, contained Mel's DNA but an American DNA expert stated that the method used to extract the DNA from the devices was unreliable and did not conform to standards required to prove the DNA was in fact Mel's.

Rather than being convicted by actual evidence, Mel would appear to have been found guilty on the basis of his beliefs; as stated by Det Insp Kevin McGuire *"... He [Mel] has been proven to be someone who believes direct action, in the form of planting explosives and setting fires, is acceptable."* Indeed, much of Mel's trial was concerned with his beliefs rather than his actual actions, leading his supporters to conclude that the right to free speech does not apply to Animal Rights campaigners.

Despite the jury hearing evidence that in 2007 senior police officers were caught on tape saying they were going to 'wage a dirty war' against the Speak campaign and 'prosecute the shit out of them', it would seem that members of the public (ie the jury) still don't understand the lengths that the police and state will go to in order to silence the AR movement and its most prolific campaigners. Mel is currently in HMP Bullingdon, but may be moved to another prison.

The British Government has made it very clear that they are the friends of animal research institutes and multinational pharmaceutical companies. This can be seen in the way they have waived the rules and regulations in planning procedures, company law and banking rules, amongst others, in the favour of these wealthy and powerful institutes. They have even changed the law on numerous occasions to make lawful protest against such institutions more difficult.

The role of government in a democracy is surely to represent the will of the electorate; a government's pre-election promises (on which the electorate have based their vote) should be implemented once it has been voted in. However, when there is a clash between the interests of democracy and the interests of the pharmaceutical industry, democracy swiftly takes a back seat - a case in point being Labour's (and probably all governments') pre-election promises regarding animal research.

Letters

Nicole Vosper - HMP Bronzefield

Dear Friends,

How's everyone doing? Life in Bronzefield seems to be going by faster and faster. It's such a joy to be working in the garden at this time of year; we have lots of cultivated plants flowering now, so lots of fresh greens to accompany the prison diet - bliss !

Sarah and I keep each other sane by laughing at this often mad place, I don't know what I would do without her! We have a regularly visiting Pagan chaplain now, so that's a real joy too: otherwise, everything is much the same, work, gym, post and study.

I've had some wonderful visits this month and feel so loved and supported, for which I am so grateful - many women in here literally have no one and I wonder what prison life must feel like for them.

Recently I've been thinking a lot about those that are forgotten - The Animals. Who sheds a tear when they die? They have no one to honour them, no recognition of their sacredness or beauty; and all those Animals in Labs who end up being thrown into plastic bins, their bodies full of toxic chemicals, just thrown into an incinerator; and all those beautiful chickens, whose bones the girls in here so easily throw away. I think of their lives, wonder what their personalities were like, how they felt, what they desired. This, I think, is a key role of the AR/Earth lib. movements, to de-commodify all animals, to honour them as non human individuals and, above all, to fight for them to be treated as persons, and with the respect they deserve. So for all of you still able to act, please keep them in your hearts and keep going, and to everyone who has written or visited, thank you so much.

Love and Liberation, Nicole x

Kerry Whitburn - HMP Lowdham Grange

Hello Everyone,

I hope all is well with you all, in life, love and happiness, and your days are as peaceful as nature would wish. I'm afraid my article may have a somewhat sombre air about it this time, but please bear with me. You see, I received sad news concerning a friend recently, and an illness she has been bravely battling. I will not divulge the details, as such information is unnecessary. Besides, many of you may know the person I mention.

It was quite a shock to me to discover not just the severity of her illness, but also that she had battled it – and won – before. Yes, such incredibly sad and shocking news, but also a regret that I have never actually met her! I hope and wish I DO have the pleasure of meeting her as I certainly DO feel I know her, and I TRULY DO class her as a friend.

Some of you may be wondering HOW I can claim to know her, and class her as a friend, when I have never met her. Well, the lady in question has been outstanding and faultless in her support of me – during this sentence AND previous ones – with wonderful letters full of kindness and care and warmth (PLUS the stamps, which are ALWAYS welcome!). Letters full of her exploits, displaying frustration and annoyance and humour. And even when I haven't replied to her letter for a while, she has still written to me to show she is 'thinking of me'. During her early battles with illness, her brilliant support STILL never faltered and her letters displayed absolutely NO evidence of her battle.

So THAT'S how I believe I know her, and WHY I feel I CAN class her as my friend. Even though SHE has NEVER met me, and I'm not the best at replying promptly to letters, she has ALWAYS been loyal and selfless. Too often in life – particularly in THIS prison – I witness misplaced respect and confused loyalty and misconceived admiration; generally influenced by fear or naivety or ignorance. But I AM SO BLESSED and SO LUCKY! I have friends – close friends or 'letter friends' – who understand the TRUE meaning of TRUE friendships. I urge ALL OF YOU - if you have friends whom you have not seen or spoken with for a while, then PLEASE contact them NOW! Life should contain as few regrets as possible!

TAKE CARE - ALL OF YOU – AND THANK YOU FOR ALL THE KIND SUPPORT I HAVE BEEN GIVEN.

LOVE AND HUGS KERRY XXXX

WHEN YOU ARE
TRYING TO CHANGE
THE STATUS QUO,
SELF-SACRIFICE
IS THE PRICE OF
ADMISSION...

- Walter Bond, July 2010

Jonny Albewhite - HMP Hewell

My dear Vegan Friends,

The VPSG continues to be of fundamental support in maintaining a consistently healthy prison diet. I'm not doing cartwheels over the daily flavours our "chefs" cook up in HMP Hewell, but, once a week, I do get a curry which is truly delicious. What it really needs is a side order of hummus and olives! I've been waiting for hummus and olives ever since leaving lavish Lowdham Grange and – finally – on this Saturday the 10th July I'll be cramming as much of that illustrious combo into my orifice as is physically feasible. Yes – I've finally been granted the first of the D cat treats: nine hours of complete freedom!

I'm totally buzzin' man! Today I saw a whole bunch of friends from Liverpool and it wasn't in some shabby prison visiting room! Thank you mighty scousers, it was amazing!! The food, the company, the ambiance – sublime!! As part of the D cat strategy to realign ones brain back into the societal fold,, "freedom" is offered out in tasty 9 hour morsels, to remind the prisoner what she/he is missing (and what can easily be taken away at any given moment!) It wasn't my first day out - I've seen my family three times already on these glorious sojourns. Amazing!

The Ablewhites are a close-knit, tenacious bunch but we've all struggled through the last 5 years - my enforced incarceration being just one of the many challenges we've had to endure as a family. 2009 was quite easily the worst year of my life - of our lives. These loving bonds were so fundamentally tested by my continued imprisonment, disastrous circumstances and awful illness. Being powerlessly locked in a filthy cell while your sister and aunt endure the ravages of cancer is not a burden I would wish on anyone.

Trapped in that shitty cell in HMP Ranby, my head capsizing, I really did begin to question the purpose of my own existence. For without family and friends, who are we? Yet last month, on the 10th of July 2010, I had the best day of my life by far! It was the first of the D cat privileges then and I spent nine hours with them all, the resolute Ablewhite kith and kin, and I had more fun in one day than I've had in the preceding 5 years! And there's more and more to come in these final 12 months - More days out and even long weekends away! The power the state wields to wilfully imprison and destroy families, marriages, relationships and friendships is daunting

and foreboding. 86,000 prisoners in the UK, hundreds of thousands in their families affected. The organised insanity of it all still shocks me deeply when I hear there are more victims of it (Mel -you're a legend). It also draws my empathy deeper towards the caged animals' plight, those terrified individuals who need our help the most. I will continue to dedicate my life to that cause.

Yet, glib as it may sound, the support I still receive has been inspirational. Nigh on five years of letters, visits and cheques have astounded me and rescued me from total mental and nutritional starvation. You have all guided me towards the freedom I now anticipate with such heart-pounding vitality! Every being deserves that chance, this feeling. It defines who we are and what we become and those that have the power, the desire to steal it away with impunity are nothing less than abusive tyrants.

In fact, I'm desperate to see all my friends on such emancipated terms and that will now be possible over the last fourteen months of this ignominious prison sentence. Book now and bring hummus!

My heart goes out to you all, to the VPSG and to all the indomitable AR and ER prisoners across the world. For all those struggling against this tyranny I praise you all. The SG and all its incredibly generous supporters, I thank you all.

With all my unmitigated vegan love, always for liberty, always for the animals.

Jonny X



Adrian Magdaleno Gonzales - Reclusorio Norte del Distrito Federal Prison, Mexico

Greetings to supportive colleagues and those who clandestinely have joined the destruction of the Techno Industrial system. I would like to tell you how I ended up in prison, and my situation inside for almost five months.

Today I am kidnapped by one of the gears of the machine, for attacking its peace, for threatening its stability, order and tranquillity; in spite of giving me this hell I will be their hell! Fires will grow every time that forest is exploited, every time the trees are felled in the name of progress and civilization. As long as they continue dominating animals and destroying the land, there will always be someone prepared to attack their machines, their cars, their alienating institutions and all dominating and destructive gear.

Progress continues growing, the proof of that is the construction of the new Federal District subway line, which will have a Shopping Centre, occupying their "ecological reserves" to raise human, animal and land extermination centres such as factories, prisons, law enforcement agencies and shops that promote animal and earth exploitation. In this situation, anger and hate made me act against this means of transport.

The objective: sabotage, by placing an explosive device inside a wagon to cause economic damage, to break their security, because with their CCTV and other surveillance, I managed to infiltrate, to disestablish their peacefulness and progress, and in this way to stop them from building another subway line. My plan was to infiltrate inside the subway, and on arriving at the terminal to activate the device when the area was clear of people and safe to detonate.

I'm not a terrorist. I didn't want to harm anybody. My action was in favour of human, animal and earth liberation. I dressed like a normal person who doesn't present any hazard to the 'machine'. I went with the device in my hand, I can not deny that I was very nervous, my heartbeat and breathing were both very fast. I had just seconds to reach the terminal and activate the device. For a moment I decided to abandon the action and go home, but my anger told me that this couldn't be, so I returned with more courage. Once I arrived at the terminal I activated the device but an error made it explode sooner than I planned.

When people heard the explosion, they activated the emergency alarms, the doors were closed. People were pointing at me and I could not run away. I thought

everything was lost and I would be in the hands of the police, and so it was. For my safety no one knew of this action, therefore nobody knew about my detention. At the Public Ministry agency I was interrogated for nearly 12 hours, the police as always pretended be on my side, although I always denied being involved in the action, they threatened to hurt my family. They tried to locate my home, I had given a false address. Police said they couldn't find it and it was the time to provide them the right address. I wasn't allowed to phone anybody, and the interrogation continued as well as the threats. Finally they located my house. A policeman arrived and asked me if my house had certain features. I thought they would bring my family and would hit them in front of me to force me to confess and give information.

There was no exit and I accepted the facts. The questions and intimidation continued to gain information. There were more than 10 people questioning me. I do not belong to any subversive group or anything like that. I planned and acted alone, so I didn't have the information they were after, and even if I had it I would have never given it to them.

Finally I went to a room to write my statement. There were two policemen present to register the statement, the public defender was not present and among insults and blows, I signed the statement, in which they exaggerated the facts and added things that I had never said. During three days of torture, I could not communicate with my family, I could not go to the bathroom, they did not feed me, they did not allow me to sleep, I received five visits from different people including the republic police court, who questioned me again; they insulted me and humiliated me. They took pictures of me as if I was a trophy for those bastards. After all this, I was sent to prison. A few days later they informed me that my house had been raided and had sadly taken my computer among other items that linked me with the action.

Two months later I was sentenced to almost six years, but the Public Ministry were unhappy and they managed to increase my sentence.

I am now serving a sentence of 7 years 11 months and 5 days and all for not taking online security seriously, and although from your first action you run the risk of being arrested, it is worth getting rid of all evidence. I am now deprived of my freedom, from being with the people I love, and many other things. Although every damn minute in prison makes me think that I may not endure more time here, I don't regret what I did. They will not alienate me, they will not bend me.

Adrian Magdaleno Gonzalez

From the underground insurgent, Diego Alonso (Mexico)

Greetings to all,

I decided to write this letter to those who cared for me, even without knowing me and gave me so much support.

First of all, I would like to clarify my situation and how I arrived here since they found me red-handed with some incendiary devices in España Street, near to the chicken producer called Pilgrims Pride Corp. I had discovered this company in an industrial area while riding my bike looking for targets. I noticed 10 trailers were parked there in their parking lot so I prepared 6 petrol bombs. One night I left my house and went to the target company. It seemed a very easy target as it was a quiet area. I sat in a park in España Street waiting to act. I did not realise that a police patrol was watching me two blocks away.

They came suddenly and immobilized me. I did not have time to run away. They found my backpack and the incendiary devices, which scared them as they realised I was an activist. They called another police patrol who beat and insulted me.

I was described by the media as a lunatic (of course I'm a bit lunatic but not that much as the government says - ha-ha), as a terrorist and as a radical. I was transferred to the Attorney General's Office in my city where I was beaten. They even attempted to suffocate me with water from a toilet, forcing me to admit that the backpack was mine and wanted me to betray my other colleagues which I did not as I was on my own. The next day my father ordered my release because a year before my family put me in a psychiatric facility because of my anarchist and vegan ideals. So, knowing that they could come back I run away.

One day I found out that my family was extorted by the police. I went back home for a few days although I was told that every week Police and people from the Department of Public Safety were coming to my house as they only wanted to talk to me (ha-ha!) I decided to stay there for a while, mainly because I have a brother whom I love very much.

One day while living with my family I heard somebody knocking at the door. I thought it was my father so I got up from bed and heard my father saying Diego, there is someone looking for you and what a surprise - there were three police saying we'll take

you directly to the courts, and you can then go back home. They took me handcuffed from my home which attracted the attention of the neighbours.

They took me to the COCYDEJ (Centre for observation and classification of minors of the Jalisco state), where there were courts, where people were staring at me because of the way I look: my green hair and shorts with leggings. The judge was watching me like a mental patient and looking very upset. I had a hearing at where I was interrogated and told the crimes they accuse me of. They could not accuse me of violating the federal law of firearms and explosives because the minors in our country do not meet federal crimes; therefore they accused me of carrying weapons and prohibited items. One of the questions I was asked by the secretary at my hearing was: 'Do you have any regrets?' To which I replied: *'Well, the only thing I regret is not being able to burn these trucks of animal exploitation.'* So after that, they took me to the juvenile detention centre of the COCYDEJ. In there, you are subdued and many custodians tell you: *"This is prison, you fucking asshole, there is no escape"*. They treated me as if I was mad. From the first day I arrived they prescribed me psychiatric medication for people suffering Schizophrenia. The drug kept me doped which seemed an insult because I do have a lifestyle free of addictions.

At the beginning, I used to eat just beans which have to be checked for stones etc. Later, I was given a diet of just insipid vegetables. The custodians beat us for anything we did. We had to undress in front of everyone at night for them to see whether we were hiding drugs or weapons. We were locked up for 23 hours a day, so I used to read the "authorized" literature.

My father, who is a solicitor, got an Action of Protection to order my release because there were some inconsistencies in the prosecution. 2 ½ months later, I was released and ordered to be kept under house arrest. After 5 days I decided to escape.

I never obey the system and from this medium I would like to tell the state that I will not to bend so easily, and I will fight to the end for the abolition of animal and land exploitation, and thus reach green anarchy. I would like to tell everyone who remains active: Do not take a single step back, our enemies intimidate us with their bars, with their weapons but I have always thought that they are the ones who should be fearing us.

Leaving a control centre makes me feel more hate for the state, the industrial technological system and more love for anarchy, animal and earth liberation. I also want

to say that do not waste your time - there are hundreds of targets to attack. If they arrest one person there will be 10 more who will do actions and eventually we will fight to end this great shit we call 'civilization'.

To the people who sent me letters from other places of the world I just want to clarify that I'm no hero. I just did what my revolutionary heart and spirit dictated me.

Text was translated from a letter published by the Mexican newsletter for the animal and earth liberation, 'Rabia y accion'. (Rage & Action) - Mexico, June 29, 2010.

Walter Bond - Jefferson County Jail

Thanks so much for your support.

While obviously I cannot talk about my case, the government of the United States will not scare me into submission nor will I be silenced.

I am facing some very serious charges and allegations at this time and if convicted, sentencing could be quite severe. Nevertheless, I am in good spirits. Having the privilege of being a United States prisoner, I still have it better than most 3rd World people do in their homelands. And nothing they do to me could even come close to the plight of animals.

For my part, I shall never relent in the fight for their total freedom. Any activist that is truly effective at resisting or disrupting these horrible blood trades may face persecution. There is no cause to despair in any of this. When you are trying to change the status quo, self-sacrifice is the price of admission.

In the end our cause will win. Either humanity will perish after having ruined the biosphere and our Mother Earth will heal and continue without us or those who profess to be Earth and Animal warriors will prove it and change the current of world history, as so many social justice movements before us have done.

However, we will not win simply because we are right. Progress only occurs because of courage and confrontation.

I hope to hear from you soon. I can receive literature and media (news articles, etc), but only printed from the computer. No newspaper clippings, magazines, etc. Also, any monetary support would be much appreciated as well.

Regards, Walter Bond

Sarah Whitehead - HMP Bronzefield

Hi everyone,

Nothing much changes in here – things get madder and more inconsistent by the day, and now we've been told to expect doubling up, two prisoners in a single cell, to try and "ease overcrowding". Not quite sure of the logic there, but it sounds very cosy! I've tried digging myself out, but there's not much point when you're on the first floor.

Thank you so much to everyone who continues to write so faithfully and for all your kind words about my animals. I miss them every single day. Visits from the wonderful friends caring for them are such a joy. To know how much my beautiful animals are loved and cared for is all I need.

My studies are going well. I keep branching off into philosophy and psychology and reading all sorts of wonderful books – 'The Philosopher and the Wolf', 'Psychological Survival', 'Justice: What's the right thing to do?' And next is 'A Little History of the World'. The more I read and learn about the human race, the less I forgive! I think humans are obsessed with the pursuit of selfish happiness and animals live in the joy of now. It's up to us to ensure they get that chance.

Nicole and I continue to spend lots of time together. Someone said to us today "I'm never sure who is who – you are never apart". Does she mean like Ant and Dec, I wonder?! Anyway, I don't suppose Nicole gets much pleasure from being seemingly indistinguishable from a woman thirty years older than her, but that's life – ha ha!

As ever, I hate every second that is wasted in here when I could be out fighting for the animals, but every day is a step nearer to joining you all. In the meantime, if you are able to, please continue to support Tower Hill Stables, Folly Wildlife Rescue, New Life Parrot Rescue, and all the sanctuaries who have endless stress worrying about every penny, as they give refuge and love to abandoned creatures.

Thank you to everyone for all your kindness. Lots of love, Sarah xxx



Letters

Gerrah Selby - HMP Downview

Dear Friends,

I guess I should start by explaining why I've been "incommunicado" this whole time. There's no good reason, I've just always felt my words to be inadequate. Plus my legal team tried to convince me that if I wrote in magazines such as this, the judge could refuse my appeal and the prison could use it as an excuse not to grant me ROTL (Release on Temporary Licence). Well, my appeal was unsuccessful and surprise, surprise, the prison has still refused to grant me ROTL for reasons that they won't even disclose (I guess they can't think of any!). So it seems that old chestnut didn't work! It was worth a shot though because I've been craving some vegan ice-cream!

But now, I've had enough of keeping silent and regret being stupid enough to ever believe that the government's prison service just might treat me the same as everyone else.

It appears that no matter what I do, the government and probation service will continue to label me an extremist and a threat to national security. As Natasha said, they really must believe that caring for animals is the worst crime possible. I'm sure they are trying to send us a message, although I don't understand what that message is because their dirty tactics only serve to make us stronger.

Everything here is great. I've kept busy while in prison at the gym, doing art and pottery and gaining a Btec qualification in Media Production. I feel like I'm in school! It's true that time really does fly by in prison. I cannot believe that I have served 18 months already!

I am being fed well thanks to the priceless hard work of the VPSG who are always on hand to help. Recently, I've been enjoying tofu stir-fries, chickpea curries, vegan cheese pizzas, garlic bread and even rice pudding!

My days are always fun and eventful but also busy, so it's quite nice to be locked in at night to relax, read and write letters. I have a lovely little en-suite "pad" with views out towards the lights of London. Of course, I long for my family, my friends and my freedom, but being in prison is no hardship. What those animals in Huntingdon Life Sciences go through is absolute hell and nothing can compare to that.

I am so proud to be a part of the animal rights movement and feel privileged to have met some of the most amazing, compassionate and ground breaking activists of our time. The sole reason we are in prison is because the British government sanctions a system which allows the murder & torture of millions of innocent animals in return for blood money, and because they see fit to protect a laboratory exposed for some of the most sickening and disturbing animal cruelty ever caught on film.

I still remember the first time I saw the undercover video footage shot inside HLS. I was about 17 and saw it online. I remember how the tears would not stop rolling down my eyes and I couldn't stop shaking. I was so distraught from seeing the absolute fear in those dogs' eyes and at the same time, I was so angry that the UK government not only wouldn't do anything to stop it, but they were actively fighting to keep HLS open. It was at that time that I made a promise to every single one of those animals suffering in silence that I will do everything in my power to help them.

Six years later, I am in a prison cell. Not quite the way I imagined my future would pan out but I have no regrets about protesting against Huntingdon Life Sciences. What they do is wicked and evil. There is a quote which says "For evil to triumph, all it needs is for good people to do nothing." Luckily for the animals, there will always be good people doing everything they can to help them. No matter what dirty tactics the police and governments use, we will never forget the animals who need our help.

I thank you all for everything you do! While we are imprisoned and unable to help, the greatest, warmest feeling is to know that there are good people out there aiding the animals in every way they can. Thank you to everyone sponsoring the SAY appeal and thank you to everyone who has the courage to stand up to oppression and tyranny. You are all heroes.

With love and solidarity, Gerrah xx



UK Prisoners

Prisoners really appreciate letters and staying in touch with the outside world, it's one thing that makes their incarceration more bearable, so please do write to them or drop them a line or two on a card.

Jonny Ablewhite (A5750AH)

HMP Hewell, Hewell Lane, Redditch, Worcs B97 6QS. Jonny has been inside since September 2005 and is serving 12 years for conspiracy in connection with the Newchurch Guinea Pigs Campaign. Birthday: 27th January.

Dan Amos - released, 30/07/10

Gregg Avery (A4874AD) - New number, April '10

HMP Coldingley, Shaftesbury Road, Bisley, Woking, Surrey GU24 9EX. In January 2009 Gregg was sentenced to 9 years for conspiracy in connection with HLS campaigns. Birthday: 5th December

Natasha Avery (A5180AD)

HMP Send, Ripley Road, Woking, Surrey GU23 7LJ. In January 2009 Natasha was sentenced to 9 years for conspiracy in connection with HLS campaigns. Birthday: 28th December

Mel Broughton (A3892AE) - Update, 13-07-10

HMP Bullingdon, PO Box 50, Oxford, OX25 1WD. Mel was remanded on 14-12-07 and was sentenced on 13-02-09 to 10 years for animal rights related offences against Oxford University animal experiment lab. Unfortunately, Mel was found guilty again (following a successful appeal) for these offences. He will continue his original 10 year sentence given him in Feb 2009. He is presently at HMP Bullingdon, but we expect him to moved. Birthday: 5th July

Robert Griffiths - has been released on 11-07-10

He thanks everyone that gave him support. Robert was sentenced to 18 months on 12th October 2009 for conspiracy to blackmail companies involved in vivisection.

Heather Nicholson (A3158AJ)

HMP Foston Hall, Foston, Derby, Derbyshire DE65 5DN. In January 2009 Heather was sentenced to 11 years for conspiracy in connection with HLS campaigns. Birthday: 30th January

Lewis Pogson - was released on tagging, 17-06-10

Gavin Medd-Hall (WV9475) - New number, May '10

HMP Coldingley, Shaftesbury Road, Bisley, Woking, Surrey GU24 9EX. In January 2009 Gavin was sentenced to 8 years for conspiracy in connection with HLS campaigns. Birthday: 20th March

Gerrah Selby (A2014AD)

HMP Downview, Sutton Lane, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5PD. In January 2009 Gerrah was sentenced to 4 years for conspiracy in connection with HLS campaigns. Birthday: 26th February

Nicole Vosper (VM9385)

HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ. Nicole Vosper entered a plea at Winchester Crown Court on 16/03/09 to charges of conspiracy in connection with HLS campaigns and was remanded in custody. Birthday 15th February

Dan Wadham (A5705AA)

HMP Camp Hill, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5PB. In January 2009 Dan was sentenced to 5 years for conspiracy in connection with HLS campaigns. Birthday: 3rd February

Kerry Whitburn (TB4886)

HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham NG14 7DA. Kerry has been inside since September 2005, and is serving 12 years for conspiracy in connection with the Newchurch Guinea Pigs Campaign. Birthday: 18th April

Sarah Whitehead (VM7684)

HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middlesex. TW15 3JZ. Sarah entered a plea in 2009 at Winchester Crown Court to charges of conspiracy in connection with HLS campaigns and was remanded in custody. Birthday: 12th February

International Prisoners

Nathan Block, 36359-086

FCI Lompoc, 3600 Guard Road, Lompoc, CA 93436, USA. Sentenced to 7 years and 8 months. (one of the Operation Backfire prisoners - e-mail: solidaritywithsadieandexile@gmail.com) Birthday: 6th March

International prisoner listings continue on page 14...

International prisoner listings continued from page 13...

Walter Edmund Bond, P01051760

PO Box 16700, Golden, CO 80402-6700, USA. FBI/ATF arrested a man in connection with alleged A.L.F. actions following an informant tip off, (now know to be his brother who was working with the ATF). Walter was arrested and has been imprisoned on remand with no bail in Jefferson County Jail in Colorado until his trial.

Alex Hall, 15908-081 - Update - 08-08-10

FCI Englewood Federal Correctional Institution, 9595 West Quincy Avenue, Littleton, CO 80123, USA. On 30th June, 2010 Alex was sentenced to 21 months in prison for his part in liberating over 600 mink from a fur farm. www.supportbjandalex.com Birthday: 5th May

Kevin Kjonaas 93502-011

FCI Sandstone, P.O. Box 1000, Sandstone, MN 55072, USA. Sentenced to 6 years, one of the SHAC 7 (now 1) prisoners - www.shac7.com/kevin/index.htm Birthday: 31st October

Marie Jeanette Mason, 04672-061 - Moved - 08-08-10

FMC Carswell, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127, USA.

Marie was sentenced on 5th February 2009 to an outrageous 21 years and 10 months imprisonment for ELF/ALF actions. http://freemarie.org/ and http://supportmariemason.org Birthday: 26th January

Eric McDavid, 16209-097

FCI Victorville, Medium II, Federal Correctional Institution, PO Box 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Sentenced to just under 20 years for conspiring to think about actions! (Part of an FBI sting operation) www.supporteric.org Birthday: 7th October

Daniel McGowan, 63794-053

USP Marion, U.S. Penitentiary, P.O. Box 1000, Marion, IL 62959, USA. Sentenced to 7 years for his part in two arsons and his role in an ELF/ALF conspiracy. He is presently at a CMU: http://bit.ly/dp9ruw (one of the Operation Backfire prisoners - www.supportdaniel.org) Birthday: 2nd May

Kevin Olliff, CDC ID# AE 1628 - Updated - 23-07-10

CIM - DU 206, Reception Center East / Del Norte, P.O. Box 500, Chino, CA 91708, USA. Kevin is on remand awaiting sentence for animal rights related offences. http://www.supportkevin.org/ Birthday: 27th March

Jonathan Paul, 07167-085

FCI Phoenix, Federal Correctional Institution, 37910 N 45th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85086, USA. Sentenced to 51 months for his part in two arsons in an ELF/ALF conspiracy. (one of the Operation Backfire prisoners - www.supportjonathan.org) Birthday: 31st January

William James Viehl, 15909-081

FCI Terminal Island, PO Box 3007, San Pedro, CA 90731, USA. In February 2010, William was sentenced to two years in prison for his part in liberating over 600 mink from a fur farm. www.supportbjandalex.com Birthday: 19th May

Briana Waters 36432-086

FCI Danbury, Federal Correctional Institution, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811, USA. Briana is serving a six year sentence for allegedly acting as a look-out during an ELF arson. (one of the Operation Backfire prisoners - www.supportbriana.org)

Joyanna Zacher, 36360-086

FCI Dublin, Federal Correctional Institution, 5701 8th St - Camp Parks, Unit E, DUBLIN, CA 94568, USA. Sentenced to 7 years and 8 months. (one of the Operation Backfire prisoners - e-mail: solidaritywithsadieandexile@gmail.com) Birthday: 25th January

Mexican AR prisoner - Adrian Magdaleno Gonzales

A university student of 21 years who was arrested in February 2010, has been sentenced to 7 years 11 months and five days and is being held at the Reclusorio Norte del Distrito Federal Prison. For more information or to send letters of support, email us at libertadparaadrian@hushmail.me

Until all are free we will continue to have prisoners and we must continue our fight against all injustices and abuse, and also remember those that can not because of their temporary incarceration. Use your own 'freedom' to help those that need it right now!

LEGACIES

There are many ways to help us continue our work, and remembering us in your will is one such way. If you feel you would like to leave us with a donation or sum of money, please consult your solicitor. The following statement can be used as a guide:

" I BEQUEATH TO THE ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT SUPPORTERS GROUP PRESENTLY AT BCM 1160, LONDON WC1N 3XX, THE SUM OF, AND DECLARE THAT THE RECEIPT OF THE TREASURER OR OTHER AUTHORISED OFFICER OF THE SAID SOCIETY SHALL BE GOOD AND SUFFICIENT DISCHARGE OF SUCH LEGACY. "

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The ALF SG has no prior knowledge of ALF actions and does not seek to incite others to copy or take part in such actions. The ALF SG and those involved in this publication or any part of the group have no intention of encouraging anyone to break the law.

All information contained in this newsletter exists only for the purposes of information.

BOLD NATIVE

BECOME A MEMBER

You can help us continue our work for animal liberation prisoners by joining us as a member. Just fill out the form below and post it to:

ALF Supporters Group, BM Box 1160, London, WC1N 3XX.

OR **£2** per month
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