Jeff Luers set fire to three SUVs at a car dealership in Eugene, OR during the summer of 2000 in response to the environmental devastation that he saw occurring on a global scale. The court levied an egregious sentence to make an example out of him, to send a clear message to others who might share Jeff’s outrage and will. In 2004 Jeff was three years into his 22+ sentence. That year his support crew announced that June 11th was the International Day of Solidarity with Long-term Anarchist Prisoner Jeff “Free” Luers. In the following years, June 11th served as a day for anarchists, environmental radicals and forest defenders alike to show some kind of support for Jeff. After years of struggle, Jeff and his legal team won a reduction in his sentence and he was released from prison in December 2009. In the years intervening Jeff’s arrest and release, the FBI executed raids, subpoenas, indictments and arrests in an attempt to dismantle the radical environmental, anti-globalization and anarchist movements. Two of the people caught up in this maelstrom of repression were Eric McDavid and Marie Mason. Eric McDavid was arrested in January 2006. A paid government informant – “Anna” – created a crime and entrapped Eric in it. He was charged with a single count of “conspiracy.” Though Eric car-
ried out no actions and was accused of what amounts to “thought crime,” the State pushed forward with Eric’s charges. He refused to cooperate and took his case to trial. After a trial fraught with errors, the jury reluctantly convicted Eric. He was subsequently sentenced to almost 20 years in prison. Marie Mason was arrested in March 2008. Her former husband — Frank Ambrose — turned informant for the FBI and cooperated in a number of open cases including Marie’s. Marie faced a life sentence if she went to trial, so she accepted a plea agreement in September 2008. She admitted her involvement in the burning of an office connected to GMO research and the destruction of a piece of logging equipment. At her sentencing in February 6th, 2009, the court sentenced Marie to almost 22 years. Since Jeff’s release, Marie and Eric share the unfortunate distinction of having the longest standing sentences of any environmental prisoners in the United States. Eric is currently serving out his 19+ year sentence in Victorville, CA and, after seemingly constant transfers, Marie is currently serving her 21+ years in Carswell, Texas. In 2010, both Marie and Eric lost appeals that would have reduced their sentences. Thus, June 11th resumes this year as a day of solidarity with Long-Term Anarchist Prisoners Eric McDavid & Marie Mason. Though June 11th is one day; it’s a specific time to think and act with our friends who are in prison – who are continuing their struggles on the inside.

* * *

JEFF: Eric, you were convicted of conspiracy to damage or destroy by arson or explosive public and/or private property. How did that happen? What led up to it?

ERIC: What led up to my B’n convicted of conspiracy 2 damage &/or destroy govt property & interstate commerce is a long path 2 travel – but the short version of it is how after high school i dabbled N a couple of so-called carriers (serving tables/bartending, carpentry/framing) & N each, i looked at the preceding generation 2 C
2 listen 2 & follow their Hearts regardless of the programming all of us R subjected 2 over our lives...

J: And finally what do you need or want? What would help make your time inside easier? (This is your chance to unashamedly put it out there so do it this is where it is absolutely ok to be selfish :))

E: what do i need or want 2 make my time go by easier? Other than the obvious? ... this isn't something easy 4 me 2 do... <SIGH> ... folx have been continuously help’n out w/my requests 4 reading material which helps a lot, & every once N a while i find a surprise deposit on my books... mostly, my concern centers @ the monetary burden placed upon my partner 4 hir costs 2 make it dn 2 C me 4 visits... oh, & it’s always beautiful 2 receive zines & rad publications...

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More information on Eric’s case can be found at http://www.supporteric.org
More information on Marie’s case can be found at http://www.supportmariemason.org

where i’d possibly B N 10–20 yrs... not finding what i saw to be appealing, i chose 2 go bk 2 school & try 2 feel out another way... i was leaning toward teaching philosophy when i ran across the anti-war movement pre-Iraq II & after that 1st march N San Fran on the 25th of Oct. there was no hold’n bk... what i felt amongst those masses of people filling the streets tapped N2 something that nurtured my Heart N a way that i hadn’t felt since i was a kid... i joined a couple of peace grps & went 2 multiple skill-shares on deescalation & dealing w/cops, so as 2 help out w/security during marches... i soon became disheartened, finding out that the people/grps putting on the marches weren’t just getting 2gether 2 ‘act now to stop war & end rape’, but were some political vanguard – that piece made me reel it N & stay closer 2 home... i mostly helped out through the students 4 peace grp at the J.C. i was attending... it was at 1 of these meetings where i saw this scroungy kid stapling stacks of paper copies 2gether dn the middle & folding them N ½ making a little booklet... i quietly asked 2 C 1, & hardly picking up his head, he said that i could keep it – the ‘cover’ was this femminin face w/ what looked like metallic dreads & the words Species Traitor (don’t recall the #)... my initial feeling was = ‘weird’, so i stuffed it N my bag 4 later... that zine was my 1st intro N2 a social critique i felt 2B authentic & it resonated w/how i felt N that becoming moment; after that, thresholds began 2 appear everywhere, & my real journey began w/remembering who i am...

J: You were the victim of a paid FBI informant. How did “Anna” earn your trust?

E: some may call it naïve, but B’n my authentic self – i naturally and whole-heartedly trust every 1... so, ‘Anna’ never earned my trust, she manipulated it, by tugging at heart-strings she’d woven whenever she felt me drift from the course she’d chosen...

J: According to the State you are a convicted terrorist. How does that make you feel? Are you a terrorist?

E: it’s a trip 2 B labeled a terrorist by a grp of bureaucratic terrorists; i’d say it feels awkward, almost comical... i’ve had all sorts
of folx attempt at sticking me N some category & i’m pretty good
at duck’n out of ‘em

J: There is a lot of contention in the Environmental movement
about snitches and how to deal with them. In many cases they have
been welcomed back into activist communities or continued to re-
ceive support. What is your opinion on snitches and how do you
think the activist community should respond to them?

E: my opinion on snitches is that each is unique, & aught 2 B
handled as such… 4 those who create a great degree of damage, i
believe the severity of their treatment by their loved 1s & friends
aught 2 B reciprocal… some will B forgiven by some people, but
their choices can never be forgotten by any1…

J: Having been found guilty of thinking about property destruc-
tion what is your opinion on that tactic? How does this movement
and others work toward a better future?

E: my opinion on the tactic of property destruction is that i
haven’t yet found a viable argument against it…(remembering that
the Sedition Act of 1917 has yet 2 B revoked) hypothetically speak-
ing = it’s possible that the folx who choose 2 utilize the myriad of
tactics that R out there need 2 all Dance 2gether… for instance, if
there were an action done by some anonymous folx, those who’ve
been working on the same subjects w/the public could utilize that
flow of energy towards their own end, as well as those N the sur-
rounding areas… let it B a ripple effect that folx can ride the wave
after the pebble hits the water…

J: What is your daily life like? Can you walk us through a typical
day?

E: a typical day = up at 5/5:30 am 2 do joint rotations & a kun-
dalini yoga session… we get unlocked @ 10 2 6 am, & i go out N2
the pod 2 read the ticker on the news station (w/a cup of coffee ev-
ery other day), 2 wait 4 the 1st ‘recreation move’ at 6:20am… outsd
exercising until @ 7:45, mwf an hr of yoga at 8, otherwise head bk
2 the pod 4 some breakfast & reading/writing/letters/projects until
our unit gets called 2 chow… eat light on tues/thurs bc of the be-
ginner’s yoga class i teach at noon 4 an hr; i’m basically out at the
yard until recall at 3pm… come bk 2 shower B4 we get locked dn 4
the afternoon count – from ¼ 2 4 til ¼ 2 5… when we get unlocked i
sometimes play some dominoes or read/write until chow… mon/fri
i go out 2 ‘rec.’ & do bloodpressure/body-fat readings until recall at
8pm, or on other days i might go over 2 the library 4 some space &
a ‘lil quiet… after that it’s lockdn at 9:15pm & i crash as soon as the
door locks… ‘groundhog day’ barely scratches the surface where
visits & mail R basically the only things that change…

J: What do you miss most about being free or, as I like to think
of it, in minimum custody? E: what i miss most about minimum
security is DIVERSITY = of everything; B’n @ my Partner, trees,
my family, dogs, kids, rivers, elders, the ocean, stars – fuck’n stars,
lakes… needless 2 say i could go on 4 a long time…

J: What is your advice to the next generation who want to be
involved and want to create change?

E: my advice 2 the next generation who wish 2 B involved, &
wish 2 create change – would B seriously learn & explore who U
R… not who U think U R, or who society or some counter-culture
says U R, but really who U R… learn/explore who nurtures who UR
(B they humyn or non-humyn), & listen 2 Ur Heart & 2 those who
nurture who UR; everything else falls N2 place after that…

J: Clearly you can’t answer this without bias, but how important
is prisoner support to this struggle and others?

E: yes, i’m totally biased – i believe prisoner support is 1 of the
fundamental facets of the mosaic we’re all a part of – esp. recog-
izing & supporting p.o.w.s & political prisoners from other genres
who’ve moved contrary 2 the culture; N sharing support, we open
ourselves 2 new relations which R integral 2 nurturing change…

J: Do you have hope for the future and if so what gives you hope?

E: do I have hope 4 the future? i can’t say i’d call it hope; but de-
spite what i feel B’n weaved N the coming pattern, i do have a crush
on the resonating idea that there will always B those who choose