

Leonard Peltier



warrant for a man who stole some cowboy boots. He maintains his innocence, but was sentenced to two consecutive life terms and has been imprisoned since 1976.

Leonard Peltier is a Native American Rights activist and a member of the American Indian Movement (AIM). He was accused of killing two FBI agents, who came to the Pine Ridge Reservation with an arrest

Indigenous and Civil Rights advocates argue that he did not receive a fair trial, and accuse law enforcement of suppressing evidence and coercing witnesses in order to secure a conviction on first-degree murder charges. His supporters consider him to be the longest-serving political prisoner in the United States.

Ed Poindexter



because of his political activism. He was convicted on the basis of an illegal search and a highly questionable testimony of a former Black Panther.

Ed Poindexter, who spent 52 years in prison for a crime he said he didn't commit, died in prison. He was a member of the Black Panther Party, convicted and sentenced to life in prison for supposedly luring an Omaha Police Officer to a vacant, booby-trapped house where he was killed with a suitcase bomb. Many claimed Poindexter had been framed for the bombing

A year before his death, his family members called for his release from prison on medical grounds, arguing that the wheelchair-bound inmate was no longer a threat, but their plea was unsuccessful.

Mumia Abu-Jamal



Mumia Abu-Jamal is a Black Panther activist who was sentenced to death in 1982 for the murder of a police officer in Philadelphia. As a journalist, he had repeatedly criticized the Philadelphia police department for systemic racial bias and police brutality.

While driving a taxi, Mumia Abu-Jamal saw his brother being beaten by a police officer. In the ensuing altercation shots were fired, seriously wounding Abu-Jamal and killing the police officer. According to witnesses, another black man was seen shooting the officer and fleeing the scene, but they recanted their initial statements after being coerced, threatened or offered inducements by the police.

In 2001, Mumia's death sentence was overturned and commuted to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Georges Ibrahim Abdallah



sentenced to life imprisonment in 1987 for alleged complicity in the 1982 assassinations of two diplomats, an American and an Israeli, in Paris.

Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, a Lebanese pro-Palestinian activist, was

These assassinations took place at a time when fighting was raging between Israel and the PLO, then based in Lebanon. In 1984, police discovered a cache of weapons in his Paris hideout and arrested him

in a classic case of guilt by association.

He has been eligible for parole since 1999, but nine parole requests

have been declined between 2004 and 2020.

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Fran Thompson



The court refused to allow evidence of extreme physical abuse by a former boyfriend and her fear of violence to support her claim of self-defence.

She stated: "Maybe he wouldn't have done anything to me, but I've read where women have waited too long to defend or protect themselves".

Fran Thompson was a 41-year-old widow and law student living with her mother on a farm in Knox County, Nebraska, when she shot and killed her lover, who had verbally threatened to kill her after she told him she

wouldn't marry him.

no court was not convinced that the use of deadly force was necessary

The court was not convinced that the use of deadly force was necessary in this case and sentenced her to life imprisonment.

Eric King



was in the building and the Molotov cocktail did not ignite, he was still charged with one count of 'using explosive materials to commit arson of property' and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

The judge felt it necessary to enter into the court record that Eric is 'obviously

Eric King, a self-described vegan anarchist, was arrested after attempting to firebomb a congressman's office in Kansas City. Despite the fact that nobody

a sick, deranged and dangerous person'. In his closing statement, King argued that the justice system in the United States serves to perpetuate a class-based society on behalf of the ruling elite, and primarily functions to punish those who would take direct action to change society.

José Daniel Ferrer



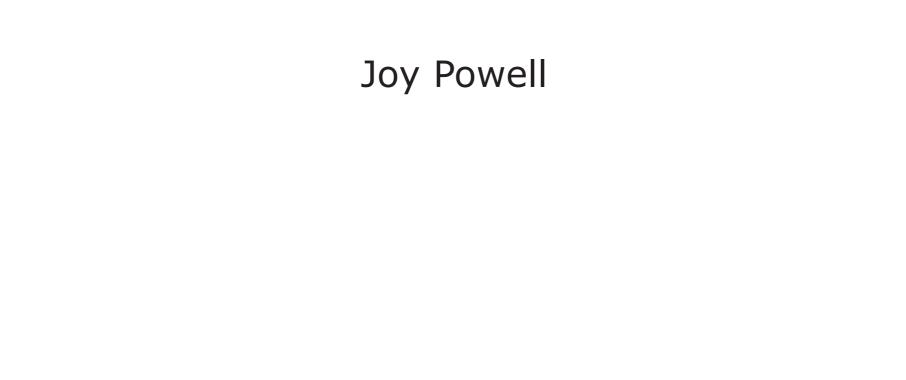
Ferrer has been arrested over 100 times during his decades-long activism.

José Daniel Ferrer is an internationally recognised human rights defender. He founded the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU), a dissident organisation that peacefully fights against all forms of repression of civil liberties in Cuba.

He has endured extreme isolation, sonic attacks, and denial of medical care designed to slowly kill him or force him into exile.

After his lastest arrest in 2021, he was held incommunicado for lengthy periods, most notably between August 2023 and March 2024. There have been rumours about his death, and although it has been confirmed that he is

still alive, his situation remains uncertain.





all-white jury and sentenced to 16 years in prison.

While serving that sentence, she was given a second sentence of 25 to life for another.

Joy Powell is a black Protestant pastor and community activist. After allegedly being raped by a prison guard in 1995, she initiated a campaign for police accountability, which continued until her arrest in 2006. Powell was arrested and charged with felony assault and burglary after a pawn shop broker gave police a description matching Powell as one of the people who sold him stolen property. Powell is adamant that the charges were not only false, but also politically motivated. She was found guilty by an

While serving that sentence, she was given a second sentence of 25 to life for another wrongful conviction over a cold murder case from 1992, which was pinned on her by a jailhouse informant. She will become eligible for parole in 2045, at the age of 84.

Abdullah Öcalan



He has been held in solitary confinement on a prison island near Istanbul, yet he is still regarded as the leader of the PKK. In 2002, his conviction

Abdullah Öcalan is the leader of the PKK, a militant Kurdish organization fighting for an independent Kurdistan. He was sentenced to death in 1999, after a Turkish court found him guilty of 'treason and separatism'. The last executions in Turkey took place in 1984. Since then, death sentences have continued to be imposed by the courts, but none has been carried out.

was commuted to life in prison, and 10 years later, Turkish officials began

peace negotiations with him, which resulted in a temporary ceasefire.



Mubarak Bala



Mubarak Bala, president of the Humanist Association of Nigeria, has faced persecution and arrest for leaving Islam and publicly expressing atheist views. In 2014, Bala was forcibly admitted by his own family to a psychiatric ward for 18 days because he said he did not believe in God.

Despite that experience, Bala redoubled his activism in the years that followed, using social media to share his views until he was arrested and sentenced to 24 years in prison for causing a public nuisance – charges related to Facebook posts that allegedly insulted the Prophet Mohammed.

It was impressed on him by the authorities that the only way his family could be safe was if he admitted that he was guilty of blasphemy, so even against legal advice he decided to agree and face the consequences. Salma al-Shehab



In 2021, while on holiday in Saudi Arabia, Salma al-Shehab, a dental hygiene student at the University of Leeds, was arrested and held in solitary confinement, after retweeting tweets in support of allowing women to drive and calling for the release of imprisoned women's

For over nine months, al-Shehab was questioned by authorities before being brought to court, where she was originally sentenced to 6 years in prison. In 2022, Saudi Arabia's Specialised Criminal Court increased her sentence to 34 years, citing multiple violations of Saudi Arabia's anti-terrorism and anti-cybercrime laws.

rights activists.

It is unclear how her Twitter account, which had around 2000 followers, could be considered significant enough to provoke acts of terrorism.





Simón Trinidad, spokesman of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and a negotiator in peace talks, was arrested in 2004 during a prisoner exchange mission in Ecuador and extradited to the United States.

The drug-trafficking charges that were used to justify his extradition were dropped, but he was sentenced to 60 years for conspiring to kidnap three US military contractors for ransom money.

For the first 12 years of his sentence, he was held in solitary confinement in an underground cell in a maximum security prison where the lights were never turned off and where he was allowed only half an hour a week in the open air.

Jessica Reznicek



During her trial, the prosecution labeled her actions as 'terrorism', arguing that Reznicek's actions against private property were 'calculated to influence or affect

Jessica Reznicek is an environmental activist from Iowa. She tried to slow down the construction of an oil pipeline by committing acts of vandalism, including using a blowtorch to cut holes in the pipeline. The operating company said the pipeline would not harm the environment, but there had already been at least

eight leaks, spilling 20,983 gallons of crude oil into Iowa's waterways.

the conduct of government'. As a result of the domestic terrorism enhancement she was not sentenced to 3 years in prison, but to 8 years.

Julian Assange - Chelsea Manning



whistleblowers to drop classified or sensitive material. In 2010, US Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning uploaded more than 700,000 classified documents to WikiLeaks, exposing grave human rights abuses and alleged US war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan.

She was charged with espionage and sentenced to 35 years in prison, escaping life without parole only because the judge rejected the government's most

Julian Assange founded WikiLeaks in 2006, creating a secure website for

serious accusation – that Manning had given information to the enemy.

The US government also sought to prosecute Julian Assange for espionage,

The US government also sought to prosecute Julian Assange for espionage, not because he spied for a foreign government, but because he published classified material that the US government did not want the public to see.

Alexei Navalny



Alexei Navalny was a Russian opposition politician. In 2011, he founded the Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK), which has conducted numerous investigations into corruption among Russia's top officials, prominent politicians, and businessmen.

The Russian authorities have responded to Navalny's work with a series of politically motivated criminal charges. For the rest of his life, he would be in and out of jail, while his organisation was banned as 'extremist'.

In 2020, during a flight to Moscow, Navalny was poisened with a highly toxic nerve agent. After recovering in a German hospital, he returned to Russia, only to be arrested and sent to a maximum security prison in Siberia.

In 2024, the authorities annouced that he died in prison.

Nelson Mandela



overthrow the government by violence and sentenced to life in prison.

After 27 years in prison for opposing South Africa's apartheid system,

Following the banning of the ANC in 1960, Nelson Mandela shifted his stance from non-violence to advocating guerrilla warfare against the South African regime. He was one of the founders of the military wing of the ANC. In 1963, Mandela was brought to stand trial for plotting to

Mandela was released and asked to lead the official talks to end white

minority rule. In 1994, he became South Africa's first black president.

minority rate: In 1991, the became South Arried 5 mot black presidents