

# MALIK



# SPEAKS!

*a selection of writings from*

**[malikspeaks.noblogs.org](http://malikspeaks.noblogs.org)**

[malikspeaks.noblogs.org/about-malik/](http://malikspeaks.noblogs.org/about-malik/)

with whatever weapons at hand



**“My name is Malik Farrad Muhammad. I’m a 26-year-old black/Palestinian pansexual Muslim (yes, hella confusing). I’m an anarchist antifascist, anti-racist abolitionist (yes, both cops and prisons) for my love of freedom! My first protest was in high school: a walkout staged after Treyvon Martin’s murder. From there, I never really got active again until “Bernie or Bust” and then, of course, the George Floyd uprising. I traveled the country and organized and fought and was ultimately kidnapped ransomed and now held prisoner here at OSP. I have a beautiful son and a loving family back home in the Midwest. I’m also a veteran, I was a tanker in the army — and no, I’m not proud that I was part of the murder machine, so don’t thank me for my service. I love music more than anything almost, am a guitarist and aspiring pianist, all genres.**

**Not much else to say except that I’m a lover of freedom, equity and equality, and will fight to my last breath for it. Unlike those who may regret a thing they did to get convicted or those who tempered their actions for fear of the consequences, I regret nothing, if only not doing more before I was caught. I will live for the people and I’ll die for the people because I love the people, we who want freedom cannot rest till it comes.”**

**“Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror. Just keep going. No feeling is final.” — Rainer Maria Rilke**

# “Every month is Black August”

August 22, 2024

What does Black August commemorate? Well, it is a month where prisoners, specifically Black, honor George Jackson and the sacrifices he made in the California prison system. For those who don't know, Jackson was given a 1-year-to-life term for a petty crime, as is what happened during that time with indeterminate sentences. He could have kept his head low and gotten out, but what Jackson saw as a young man in the system, was a system of oppression so bad his morals and character would not allow him to go along to get along.

Blacks at that time faced violence from guards and white supremacist groups and gangs all around. During that time, guards put glass and shit in Blacks' food. They chained Blacks to tables and let us get stabbed by white supremacist groups. Jackson sought to change that. Jackson helped to organize the Blacks into a unit to fight back. Jackson and the other vanguard groups, BGF [Black Guerilla Family], BLA [Black Liberation Army], and the Black Panther Party, as well as the Kumi, formed the frontline to protect our people. He taught and led our people at the expense of his freedom and, ultimately, his life. He was framed for the murder of a coward guard who killed several Blacks during a riot. In fighting that case, he educated himself, taught his people, stifled several attempts on his life, wrote books, and ultimately gave his life for the people, as he left us so much, he did without question.

Jackson was so feared, as we all are, they had to portray him as a Black superman, saying he killed five guards in 30 seconds barehanded before being killed, as a way to justify it — that's one hell of a man, so I'll believe it! As his name echoes throughout history, those guards are not even a footnote in the life of Jackson — peanuts to an elephant.

So every August, prisoners all over honor him by doing 100 of something, standing together and working out militantly as a show of solidarity and preparedness for having to go to war if necessary. Black August and George Jackson is one of my idols, meaning more to me than one month can just display. Just like Juneteenth, and Black History Month, and Native American Heritage Month, and Mexican American Heritage Month, and AAPI Heritage Month — all of those days and , months sting and strike me as irritating that we have to have culture, history, pride and solidarity

regulated to set time. It also gets to me about Black August. Of course, like all of us, I bust down, I do my 100 burpees, I also add in 100 pushups, crunches, dips and pullups, as well as whatever else I want — I also shout up Black August and Jackson for those who don't know. But to me, Jackson and his brother and their memory and legacy are more than a month of solidarity, because Jackson put solidarity in his everyday, 365 days a week, no break, no exceptions, at all costs and by any means.

So for me, Black August is another reminder to stay the course, no matter how frustrated I get, or how bad I get done, no matter how oppressed I feel, the oppression I face, or the pain I experience, I have a duty to stay the course as Jackson did. Jackson and his sacrifices mean everything. As I sit in the hole going on a year, I stay strong because of what Jackson went through. "In my objection," as he said, "you'll never count me among the broken men". If I am lucky and privileged enough, I live among the men like Jackson who paved the way for us. Those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the people, his [indistinct] for the people, we have a duty to honor and spread his legacy and fight for the people and a brighter future, or give our lives trying. To me, every day is Jackson's Death Day, Jonathan's too. Every month is Black August, and Black History, and Native American Heritage Month, and Mexican Heritage Month. Every day is a time to show solidarity and be more militant with purpose and focus, acting boldly and autonomously to accomplish our goals.

I do love Black August commemorating the man I hold in such regard. I hope to one day see Black August everywhere, especially outside the prisons. Power to the people, all the people!

Ending quote by George Jackson: "If my enemies and your enemies prove stronger to us, at least I want them to know they made a righteous African man extremely angry."

And lastly, to all those out there prepared to vote for Kopmala, remember: she built her career locking up Blacks for petty crimes like truancy and weed, all the while laughing about its arbitrary nature. So this Black August, remember: among those she would have kept confined to death with us would also have been George Jackson and Jonathan. It is not in the spirit of revolution, remembrance or equity to vote for that cop. She would have been the architect of his demise. Don't think "lesser of two evils", 'cause that's how we got here. The lesser of two evils for Jackson

would have been to do his time and get out and take it on the chin, but no!  
He took the road less traveled by to see what he could do.

So dream bigger than a two-party system. Be bold, be brash, and be  
autonomous.

# “You are not the wolf”

August 17, 2024

Democracy, as defined by Oscar Wilde: “The bludgeoning of the people, by the people, for the people” — in other words, a system that offer everyone the opportunity to rule everyone else but renders none free. The critical founding fathers overthrew kings and tyrants but didn’t do away with the mechanisms of control that allowed kings and tyrants to rule, they just democratized them. So whoever operates the levers of control — be they kings, presidents, electorate or politicians — the experience from the receiving end is the same. Pigs, law and bureaucracy all existed long before democracy. They only serve to interrupt self-determination, but because we get to cast ballots about how they reply, we regard them as powers, even when they are used against us.

This brings me to the peculiarity of the prisoner who still proudly votes, “I’m an American, I love my country, we’re going downhill, we need \*insert\* (whatever charismatic narcissist they would vote for if they could, but they can’t ’cause they’re a felon)”. This typical prisoners is also likely the same one that says, “We are going to the Superbowl”. See, ‘we’ may sound egalitarian and collective, communal and participatory, but more often than not, it’s referring to hierarchical constraints in societal configurations. Let us remember that fascism is also a form of collectivity. Let’s examine if you are the ‘we’, shall we?

“‘We’ will never give up our homeland, ‘we’ will defend it to the death” — all the while, they’ve never seen a battlefield. The executive ‘we’: “‘We’ve’ gotten productivity up 25% percentage here, ‘we’re’ gonna see a real return in profits” — meanwhile, what was their part in the ‘we’? Cutting hours, layoffs, shortening breaks, maybe? Certainly not working! The bosses’ ‘we’: “‘We’ need to [indistinct] half an hour, [indistinct]”. We often reference the sports fans: “‘You’ guys really are going all the way this year?” — you and your respective team, do send me a postcard and take pictures, tell me how many rushing yards you personally attained. Some forms of we are entirely fictional: the patriots’ ‘we’. That ‘we’ includes everyone who happens to have citizenship in any given nation. Identity politics ‘we’: seeking to create subconscious social bodies by premising a mythical common [indistinct] based on circumstantial evidence, something like Biden saying, “If you don’t vote for me, you ain’t black”, or moreso.

I could go on, but there's only two proper forms of the word 'we' for anyone to use, but specifically for prisoners: editors can use it, and people with tapeworms. And of course, in situations where, like in situations that Lone Ranger and Tonto find themselves in, when being set upon by so-called Indians, where with Lone Rangers saying, "Looks like we're in trouble, old pal," and Tonto would say, "what do you mean 'we', white man?"

To bring it back to the prisoner: you're no more American than the kids in cages at the border, I'm afraid, 'cause believe me, when they say 'we', they certainly don't mean you. The average "good citizen", such as the one who only circumnavigates the laws they find inconvenient and can get away with, isn't given a shit about. So you can consider yourself damn sure so outside of the 'we', so insignificant to the establishment, that the Eagle's fans, with the time-honored traditions and superstitions, are more relied on and cared about by that sports team, than the government you praise so highly — one that revokes your rights, freedom, self-determination, individuality and humanity all on the day you're born, then just so happens to put you in a cage in the name of "justice" and "protecting society".

This "democracy" you love so much isn't working for you. Look around. And for those of you who are free, not incarcerated, don't [indistinct] yourself too much. Democracy oppresses you too. It grinds you down with the time-honored capitalist tradition of work for wages to afford you the ability to fill your own personal self-styled prison (i.e. home) with things the media touts and purports to sell to you to make you happy. Yet happiness is always a thing just out of reach, because they made us hate ourself and love their wealth. You people who are free and think 'we', what if you're just enough of a 'we' to be the ones that 'we' send to die for profits, or 'we' employ to oppress and subjugate a class of people that you could quite easily, even accidentally, fall into yourself? You're in the [indistinct] just enough to vote, live in your own self-styled prisons, consume, buy, work and die, but you'll never be the 'we' that benefits from anything you do. Yup, even you see those who walk around counting how much money you made this year, \$200,000 for 7 days of your life, for 12 hours a day for 365 days — wow, fuck, you know what you deserve? A reward! How about you get to vote who 'we' are? Problem solved! Here's another treat: things! Have fun, fill your prison with them, be comfy, but don't you dare say there's not enough time to enjoy your little things, you gotta work.



The same way we can buy little things for our little prison cells to be comfy awaiting our deaths, so you do the same with just a few more allotments. You're not 'we', though. I compare you more to Kratos in Greek mythology, actually. In the story where Kratos, the Greek god who literally embodies force, is leading Prometheus to prison for the quintessential act of [indistinct], dealing fire for humanity, he ruthlessly follows Zeus's order even to the contempt of his fellow jailer, for the [indistinct] between them says, "you were made for any tyrant's act". See, Kratos can bind Prometheus, punishing and suppressing his creative impulse, but cannot free him.

This is what autocracy, democracy, and all systems of power have in common. In establishing power over, they can only hobble their subjects, never ennoble them. The institutions of coercion, the legal apparatus, the police, military, jailers and such, have changed little in the transition from feudalism to democratic capitalism. It's made to impose tyranny, whether kings, presidents, bureaucrats, or the people themselves.

If that wasn't enough to get you thinking, 'cause while [indistinct] to work here, you don't have to be the sharpest tack in the drawer, so let me break it down to you [indistinct]-style:

Three wolves and six goats are sitting down to decide what to have for dinner. One boldly proclaims, "Let's put it to a vote!" And the rest of the goats fear for their lives, but the wolves acquiesce. While everyone is casting their ballots, the wolves pull aside three goats and say, "Vote with us to eat the other three goats; otherwise, vote or no vote, we'll eat you". After the ballots were counted, the remaining goats were aghast that three of their comrades voted for them to be eaten. This caused a commotion. The goat who originally asked to put it to a vote says, "Hey hey hey, calm down, at least 'we' got to vote!"

Now if you still haven't got there yet, substitute goat with sheep, and know that you are not the wolf.

# **“On the current oppression, subjugation, and genocide of the people of Palestine”**

February 2, 2024

I first saw the attack on Israel on Oct 7th. I went to the hole the next day. So from there I listened to the radio about it for a month. I cried and my heart was heavy. I've kicked myself for not being free, not going to Palestine and doing any aid work I can. Since I was a kid I dreamed of going there, since I was a kid I've had a passion for freedom from oppression over there (everywhere really). Now I'm stuck, helpless, its infuriating.

Now it's over 3 months into this conflict and the audacious actions of the Israeli state are deplorable. It's in no way comparable to the October 7th attack. I think of this dialectically, both are true at the same time. Oct 7th was an atrocity, AND Israel is currently committing war crimes and a genocide. The unrelenting support of the state by the world is also despicable. The very notion that because genocide was coined during the Holocaust does NOT limit it to one people or ONE nation's actions. We commented on genocide and ethnic cleansings in Africa. We condemned North Korea for the atrocities committed against its own people. But because it's a U.S. ally, their actions are justified? They're somehow immune to critique or subject to adhere to the rules of war? That's asinine, and JUST like the world sat idly by during Germany's crimes, they are doing the same now. Don't WAIT until things become a broader conflict for there to be action taken! By then it'll be too late! By then history will look back at the slaughtered Palestinians and acts of Israel and judge those sympathizers and their inaction as among those on the wrong side of history. They will be judged harshly.

Make no mistake, Israel IS carrying out a genocide. Make no mistake, it's happening in real time. Don't believe me? Listen to the rhetoric. I learned a LONG time ago, when someone TELLS you who they are, BELIEVE them. Bibi has stated his intention to NOT end this conflict until the complete destruction of Hamas. He's indiscriminately bombing, he's cutting off aid and access to the outside, he's stacked his government with individuals who have repeatedly called for the end to Palestine. Their defense minister advocated violence against Palestinians, his people have suggested the nuclear option against Palestinians. Those are the people you're dealing with. THOSE people are fanatics, THOSE people are war

mongering genocidal racists. It's not PALESTINIANS that should suffer the aggression of Israel. Nobody says you should not defend yourself against an attack, but those affected, by the state of Israel's aggression are not Hamas right now. It's innocent civilians.

I'm so SICK of people being apologists for Israel and walking on egg shells talking about them. Israel IS COMMITTING WAR CRIMES, THEY are the aggressor at this point. If someone comes in your house and shoots at you and robs you and leaves but you shoot them in the back, YOU'RE the aggressor. So the same way individuals are held to a standard of engagement, so should an ENTIRE NATION. That's what ROE [Rules Of Engagement] are for. I have to say, my hat's off to South Africa for bringing this in front of the ICJ and championing the people of Palestine. EVERY nation would do well to follow suit and take ACTION before history judges you harshly. Stand firm and DON'T water down your stance. STAND WITH PALESTINE. From the river to the sea, Palestine shall be free, do NOT let that be co-opted and watered down by liberals or criminalized by conservatives. We stand AGAINST the Zionist agenda, that does NOT make you anti-Jewish. Pro Palestine and two state solution does not make you anti Israel. Condemning that country for genocide does not make you anti-Jewish, not anti-Israeli, it make you PRO LIFE, PRO FREEDOM, PRO HUMANITY and anti authoritarian, anti genocidal. Normalize dialects, as humans we must, and no it's not as complicated as the news and liberals want to make you believe. NOTHING justifies genocide.

I can't say it enough, I'll scream in to the heavens: from the river to the sea, Palestine shall be free! End the genocide, protect the sanctity of human life, protect the people of Palestine. In the face of injustice, do not stay silent, no matter how singular your voice may sound.

For those of you wanting to make a difference, I do applaud you using your voices, taking up space, making noise! Be loud and unapologetic! Get in peoples faces, crash Biden's parties like you did at his campaign rally! That was beautiful! Don't let up! Don't relent! Those of you who CAN do more, DO MORE. I know some things may seem scary or daring, but be daring. Don't send thoughts and prayers, send money, send food, let's crowd fund UNRWA, the organization just got defunded by several nations over allegations by Israel. Fund their relief aid to Palestinians. And for those of you as daring as me, book a flight, don't think "what can just

me do”, you can do a lot! Document, aid in recovering lost loved ones, give your time, its more worthy that whatever capitalist soul-sucking job you’re giving your time to. Be a helping hand, a kind face in the face of this hate and anguish. Shine a light.

I envy your opportunity to do those things, there wouldn’t be a soul on earth that could stop me going. I’d spend my last, I’d risk it all, I have an immense love for my homeland, but a more intense love for freedom from oppression and a great disdain for the oppressors. Interrupt every event, trend Palestine, trend anything and everything that can be done to aid the cause, because it’s worthy, and don’t let anyone stop you.

This has been heavy on my heart, I’ll say it again and leave you with this: From the river to the sea, Palestine shall be free! Let’s make it so!

# “Choosing to eat”

December 9, 2024

Malik shares a poem he wrote shortly after ending his 9-day hunger strike.

Think tactfully, impactfully, only one path I see  
It's bittering, though, 'cause I hate to show any signs I slow,  
Or relent, repent or give in, 'cause I do not quit, I can't ever not resist  
I stand 'til the last man falls, risk it all or nothing  
What's the point in givin' if you ain't givin' your all?  
Thinking of quitting now? I'm appalled!  
My struggle, my strength, resolve – where was it all, so easy to fall?

But “defeat is a mindset”, to admit that is, in fact, not true  
Staying true to you doesn't come on others' work terms, doesn't hang on  
others' words  
You're not losing strength, resolve  
Rest assured: resolve still in your mind, body and will.

I propose a metaphor at best: life is a game of chess  
Don't back your king in a corner as a threat  
Be tactful, and sometimes be crow  
Let 'em take a rook or two knights in a row  
Make them grin, think they've won and got you on the ropes, don't let  
them relent  
Then surprise! Architect their demise

Like a fight, right?  
You can't always just rush your opponent – find his patterns, wait for the  
moment  
When the timing 's right, slip jab hook right  
Cross him out, lights out  
Hope they go down and hit the ground, won't make a sound  
You stand there tall and proud, when everyone counted you out  
Title bout, you take a bow, you wow the crowd, tall and proud  
Resolved as ever, still how powerful you feel, your power still  
They can't take that, you'll never lose – that's a fact  
It's a war we wage; Rome wasn't built in a day

Keep the pace, keep the faith  
In time they'll see how truly spectacular you can be

"I love you Malik. Stay strong, stay free, stay with me, stay here, please,  
for you, for me, for your son, for your family, go ahead and eat. In time,  
you'll find you'll see winning."

***Write to Malik:***

**Malik Muhammad #23935744  
Snake River Correctional Institution  
777 Stanton Blvd  
Ontario, OR 97914-8335**

“I’m a lover of freedom, equity and equality, and will fight to my last breath for it. Unlike those who may regret a thing they did to get convicted or those who tempered their actions for fear of the consequences, I regret nothing, if only not doing more before I was caught. I will live for the people and I’ll die for the people because I love the people, we who want freedom cannot rest till it comes.”

*“Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.  
Just keep going. No feeling is final.”*