

# Marius Mason Statement

## June 11th International Day of Solidarity with Marius Mason, Eric McDavid & All Long Term Anarchist Prisoners

my body is  
trapped in here,  
but my heart  
is with you  
still fighting  
out there...  
-Marius  
Mason

Solidarity and greetings to you all! Thank you for coming together to celebrate our respected comrade Eric McDavid's regained freedom. I'd like to wish both Eric and Jenny, his partner, every possible happiness and express how grateful I am to their legal team which worked

to uncover the government misconduct that led to Eric's incarceration for 9 1/2 years on trumped up charges of domestic terrorism.

This kind of victory should be savored and taken to heart as a lesson in solidarity and perseverance. This important win proves that we can make change when we remain committed. But our work cannot end here; we should make every effort to support Eric's transition back into society, to help him with whatever he needs to live the life he wants and so well deserves.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has written to me this year, as well as to thank folks for the many books I receive. I'm happy to announce that with the cooperation of The Base in Brooklyn and other community bookstores, and my dear friend Letha, the books that have been sent here to me (and have been shared around) will be sent on to a new round of sharing in the free world. This will save these books from the prison dumpsters.

This year has been my hardest yet. As the years go on, it gets more difficult to maintain important friendships, and to keep up with the changes in my (now grown) children's lives. I'm far from home, and visits are hard to set up and expensive. Incarceration unweaves the fabric of all families, and mine is no exception. My mother, Karin Mason, passed from cancer in December 2014. My grief at her loss incapacitated me for quite a while. Many, many thanks to those who sent their sympathy and comfort during this time.

This has also been a challenging year because of my

decision to transition, publicly, as male-identified. I came out to family first in the spring of last year. I feel incredibly fortunate that they have maintained their loving connection with me. Coming out to friends over the next few months was awkward at times and coming out on the prison Unit at Carswell in Fort Worth, Texas, was harder. In August 2014, I finally spoke to the warden to request medical help with transitioning. Carswell's Warden Upton has consistently been in compliance with the Bureau of Prison's (BOP's) new policy on transgender healthcare.

So far, I have an official diagnosis of gender dysphoria and have begun medical screening to see if I can receive hormone therapy. I am requesting complete sex reassignment surgery, but it is unclear whether this is permitted by the BOP. Though I cannot at this point legally change my name in Texas, the BOP has allowed mail addressed to me at my chosen name to be delivered (as long as it has my register number and last name). I recently was issued men's boxer shorts as part of my transition process – which feels like a small victory.

I want to acknowledge all of the work, struggle, and sacrifice that other trans folk have made before me. I know that whatever rights I now enjoy were dearly bought, and I am grateful. I'd also like to specifically thank the folks at *Black and Pink* for their publication, and all of the wonderful people who wrote to pass on their wishes of support for my transition process.

In conclusion, I have to end with a special shout out to my very own hero this year. What my advocate and friend, Moira Meltzer-Cohen, has done for me is nothing short of saving my life. Thank you, Moira, for believing in me, for getting me through the worst moments, and for patiently showing me the real power of solidarity. There are no words adequate to express my admiration, gratitude, and respect. Thank you all for being there for me – trust and believe that I'm in here for you.

Love and solidarity, Forever.  
Marius  
June 2015