

THREE STRIKES: Calling the Empire Out!

The three strikes we're talking about are not the so-called "anti-crime" three strikes, repressive measures designed to lock people up for life and expand the criminal injustice system of mass incarceration. We are talking about three particular recent strikes -- of prisoners in Georgia, students in Puerto Rico, and autonomous workers in Greece that point a way forward for popular struggle against austerity, exploitation and repression at the hands of the Empire. The Georgia prisoners, who organized themselves under conditions of incarceration and deprivation of basic human rights, and in the process overcame the racial divisions fomented by the colonial prison system to control the prisoner class, demonstrated the constantly unexpected power of the people. The student strikers in Puerto Rico also overcame divisions about status in a colonized country, resisted government austerity and united the larger working population behind their demands. They point a way forward for US students facing new austerity measures, budget, program and staffing cuts and fee increases, just as the British response to similar measures does (the British students bumrushed the "Prince of Wales"). The autonomist workers' militant general strike in Greece against the austerity conditions imposed by the European central banks and the IMF and World Bank demonstrate that passivity in the face of exploitation, austerity and repression is not a genetic predisposition of Europeans. If Europeans in Europe can break with business unionism and reformism, and confront the state and the corporations, then eventually European-descent workers in the US are also surely capable of breaking with racism, reaction and settler colonialism to confront the bosses and their enforcers here.--*Ed.*

Georgia Prisoners' Strike Largest in US History

From reports by Davey D, Black Agenda Report

Here are the demands of the prisoners who collectively launched on December 9 the Georgia Prison Strike, the biggest prisoner protest in the history of the US. Thousands of men, from Augusta, Baldwin, Hancock, Hays, Macon, Smith and Telfair State Prisons, among others, Black, Mexicano/indigenous, Asian and white, jointly initiated this strike. They pressed the GA Dept. of Corrections ("DOC") to stop treating them like animals and slaves and institute programs that address their basic human rights.

They want:

- * A LIVING WAGE FOR WORK
- * EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
- * DECENT HEALTH CARE
- * AN END TO CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENTS
- * DECENT LIVING CONDITIONS
- * NUTRITIONAL MEALS
- * VOCATIONAL AND SELF-IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES
- * ACCESS TO FAMILIES
- * JUST PAROLE DECISIONS

Despite the non-violent protest of staying in their cells and refusing to work, the DOC used violence, threats and other provocations—claiming it was "lawful" to order prisoners to work without pay. As employers use a lock-out against workers, the DOC used a lockdown against the prisoners. In Augusta State Prison, six or seven inmates were brutally ripped from their cells by CERT Team guards and beaten, resulting in broken ribs for several men, one man beaten beyond recognition. At Telfair, the Tactical Squad trashed all the property in inmate cells. At Macon, the Tac Squad has menaced the men for two days, removing some to the "hole," and the warden ordered the heat and hot water turned off. Inmate leaders, representing blacks, Hispanics, whites, Muslims, Rastafarians, Christians, have stated the men will continue to struggle by various means until their demands are addressed, one issuing this statement:

"...Brothers, we have accomplished a major step in our struggle... We must continue what we have started... The only way to achieve our goals is to continue with our peaceful sit-down... I ask each and every one of my Brothers in this struggle to continue the fight. ON MONDAY MORNING, WHEN THE DOORS OPEN, CLOSE THEM. DO NOT GO TO WORK. They cannot do anything to us that they haven't already done at one time or another. Brothers, DON'T GIVE UP NOW. Make them come to the table. Be strong. DO NOT MAKE MONEY FOR THE STATE THAT THEY IN TURN USE TO KEEP US AS SLAVES...."

When the strike began, prisoner leaders issued the following call: "No more slavery. Injustice in one place is injustice to all. Inform your family to support our cause. Lock down for liberty!" Although the job action has ended for the moment, continue to call the warden's offices of the following Georgia State Prisons expressing concern for the welfare of the prisoners and support for their demands.

Macon State Prison is 978-472-3900. Hays State Prison is at (706) 857-0400. Telfair State prison is 229-868-7721. Baldwin State Prison is at (478) 445- 5218. Valdosta State Prison is 229-333-7900. Smith State Prison is at (912) 654-5000. The Georgia Department of Corrections is at <http://www.dcor.state.ga.us> and their phone number is 478-992-5246.

There is also an on-line petition in solidarity with the prisoners' demands at <http://www.petitiononline.com/wagesnow/petition.html>

Elaine Brown, former chair of the Black Panther Party in its last phase, has helped establish a broad-based coalition to support the prisoners, which you can find at the following URL: (see Georgia, p. 2)

Puerto Rican Student Strike Re-Emerges

Translation and summary for *TTT* from pr.indymedia.org

In mid-December, students at the 11 campuses of the University of Puerto Rico went out on strike after the colonial government reneged on commitments they made in order to end a campus occupation which had taken over 10 of the 11 campuses with extensive community support earlier in the year. Despite agreements to the contrary, the UPR began to impose new higher tuition fees, and the students renewed their resistance.

On days 3-4 of the strike at the Rio Piedras campus of the University of Puerto Rico, on Thursday and Friday Dec. 16-17, 2010, the riot police were mobilized to retake control of the campus. To block the entrances to the campus on Thursday morning, the Fuerza de Choque/SWAT team was divided to cut off each of the gates. As a result, the inside of the campus was almost deserted. As in prior days, the police tactic was to mobilize various units of the Strike Force with their shields and tear gas rifles with the intention of pushing back the protesters. They repeated announcements over loudspeakers that the protesters were breaking the law by blocking traffic lanes, and had 5 minutes to disperse.

Instead of retreating, students decide to go meet everyone at the main gate for a mass demonstration. The theater group Paper Machete presented an exciting street theater, which featured a new character, Doña Fee, a beauty queen with a document urging students to take out a loan to pay the increased fee. The demonstration continued outside the main gate late into the afternoon. At the entrance, the police responded by setting up a tent to stay there permanently.

That same day, Gov. Luis Fortuño spoke to the country about the situation in the UPR at 5pm on all TV channels and radio stations. His main intention was to justify the deployment of excessive force during the conflict of the Shock troops with the strikers. He chose the baton instead of dialogue. That night there was a demonstration held through the streets of Rio Piedras.

Meanwhile, security officers were stationed at the gates and asked all who wanted to enter for identification. The purpose of this lock-out was to try to reduce numbers in the demonstrations that took place within the campus. Despite being told of the established system of using ID only to request services and never for the purpose of accessing the facilities, the officers turned a deaf ear. In other cases, the guards asked for college ID only from those who'd been seen engaging in any activity classified as "demonstrators." Campus spokespersons also reported incidents of sexual harassment from police officers, who would whistle, make comments, and throw lascivious winks and looks at students while they were walking to their residences. They also escorted some students off the campus against their will.

Around noon on day 4, picketers reassembled at the law office of McConnell & Valdes, legal representatives of the UPR, protesting the waste of money because of their inflated contracts. Many of the repressive measures introduced by the UPR administration were carried out under the advisement of this firm. Protesters also picketed the office of University Trustee Luis Berrios, former Gov. Rossello's lawyer and representative of the Senate in the Public-Private Partnership.

After an intense first week of striking and in defiance of the state repression, the students closed it out very creatively. At 2 pm the slogans of student struggle began to echo in the Terrace food court of Plaza Las Americas, the largest mall in the Caribbean. That's when strikers and other supporters, who had begun arriving in the food court of the huge mall in Hato Rey at 1 pm and had remained scattered to avoid arousing suspicion, gathered around the bullhorn that gave the signal to start the demonstration (see Puerto Rico, p. 2)

Report from the General Strike in Greece

Excerpted from: <http://en.contrainfo.espiv.net/2010/12/16/weve-got-the-rage-report-from-the-general-strike-in-greece-december-15th-2010/>

No doubt remains, even for the most naive, that the State in close cooperation with all its supporters and mechanisms has decided to wage a full-scale war against society. They are afraid of the natural social rage expressed so far, but also the rage to come. The repressive role of the State, as expressed through the murderous mechanism of the Greek Police has now begun to spread its tentacles. Fascists, undercover cops, obedient householders, so-called peace-loving citizens, and other social dregs have been recruited to act like a natural extension of this murderous formation. It should concern us all; something that was happening before but is now full-fledged, in the most indiscriminate, naked and shameless way. It's happening right before our eyes!

Athens: It's a city full of police officers of all kinds on every corner, in a transparent effort to terrorize people and make the city an inaccessible place, controlled by them. Nevertheless, since the early morning of December 15, huge numbers of people started to flock to the assembly points in the center of Athens. Every part of Patisision Avenue, from Areos' Field to Omonia Square, was full of people, while the sidewalks were becoming increasingly crowded too. Some rough estimates talk of 200,000 people, a number that can only compare to the seminal May 5th General Strike. Before the demonstration started, there were at least three cases in which undercover cops were expelled from the demonstration after the dynamic intervention of comrades. In one case, they attempted to arrest four comrades who were heading to the gathering point with spears and banners, but the forceful intervention of 50-60 people stopped them from doing so.

There were lots of people properly prepared (with masks, maaloX and various self-protection materials), a fact strongly reflecting the confrontational mood of a fairly large part of the demo. The clashes began when the main part of the demo arrived at Syntagma square. Large numbers of demonstrators attacked the patrons of the local ruling class and Capital. For a long time, explosions could be heard around the square. There were attacks with molotov cocktails, stones, dynamite, fire extinguishers, etc. against several squads around Syntagma, as well as were melees with the MAT forces (riot police) and the thugs of the DIAS motorcycle police. The MAT forces responded with tear gas and flash-bang grenades, in this way cutting the demo into various parts. Yet in so doing, they only succeeded in spreading the conflicts into various areas of the city center.

Protesters managed to repel the cops and set a police paddy wagon on fire. At various parts of the center, people successfully faced off the brutal police raids. At Alexandra Avenue, two DIAS motorcycle cops were beaten by angry demonstrators, who burned both their bikes. A spontaneous march by the Primary Unions and the AK (Antiauthoritarian Movement), moved toward the main building of GSEE (General Confederation of Greek Workers) in order to occupy it. But the cops' superiority in numbers managed to deter them. Some cops pulled their guns.

Clashes continued around the Polytechnic School for several hours, while scores remained trapped inside by riot police. Behind the University of Economics and around the Polytechnic, there were scattered clashes with cops in the street and barricades, as well down other streets of Exarchia, with people playing cat and mouse with the police after the end of the main demo. There were reports that the neighborhood of Exarchia has been completely militarized.

(see Greece, p. 2)

GEORGIA

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Concerned-Coalition-to-Respect-Prisoners-Rights>

HIP-HOP MUST RESPOND TO THE GEORGIA PRISONERS' STRIKE

By Dr. Boyce Williams

Any fan of hip-hop knows that prison culture and experience is a fundamental part of rap. For good or bad, nearly every “gangsta” rapper in America has either been to prison, has a friend in prison, is on his way to prison or is in prison right now. Given the amount of experience that many rappers have with the human rights abuses that take place in America’s penitentiaries, you would hope that the hip hop community would be the first in line to support the prison inmate strike in Georgia.

But horrific issues like prison rape, overcrowding, the inability to find a job upon release and Draconian sentences for non-violent offenders and youth remain unaddressed. To date, we are more likely to hear about a rapper being blinged out with a bottle of Cristal than we are to hear an artist expressing genuine love and concern for what’s happening to their loved ones who are incarcerated.

In case you’re not hip to what’s happening right now, let me brief you: the US incarcerates more citizens than any other country in the world. We incarcerate 16 times more people per capita than the Chinese. Additionally, a disproportionate number are black.

One of three black boys born in 2001 will spend time in state or federal pens. Corporations earn billions from involuntary labor of prison inmates, and many who lobby for tougher crime laws have a direct financial stake in mass incarceration.

Remember that the power of the state to define someone as a criminal is arbitrary (even Jesus and Martin Luther King were “criminals” according to the state). Black men are searched, arrested and incarcerated at far greater frequencies than other ethnic groups. The US has been criticized by the UN for having a two-tiered system, one for whites and one for blacks.

In fact, the 13th Amendment, which allegedly abolishes slavery, says it is still legal to enslave another human being, as long as you find a way to label him/her as a criminal

The inmates in Georgia are not asking for much, just a chance to rehabilitate if they choose to do so. To date, there is no bigger producer and creator of criminals than the US prison system. If you are not a criminal when you go in, you’ll probably be one by the time you get out – that makes our society more dangerous for everyone.

The hip hop community, rather than writing lyrics to glorify incarceration and excessive materialism, may want to consider doing things that challenge the systems that enslave hundreds of thousands of black people.

They should be speaking up on how to stop the abuses taking place in our prisons and advocate for rehabilitation for those who want to be accepted by society. Making a mistake at a young age does not mean you should be punished for life, and prison inmates are not worthless.

Hip-hop artists, with their powerful platforms, should use their collective voice to make a difference. Your brothers and sisters in the penitentiary need your help, and the GA prison strike is a great opportunity to get started.

Dr. Boyce Watkins is a Professor at Syracuse University and founder of the Your Black World Coalition at www.YourBlackWorld.com.

PUERTO RICO

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Nearly 300 people kicked off the spree in the form of an indoor march. Once on the march, they brought together more than 400 additional people.

Repression is continuing against the strikers.

For more news and photos, check out Indymedia Puerto Rico at <http://pr.indymedia.org>



University of Puerto Rico students and supporters face off against riot police.

GREECE

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One caller to the 98 anarchist radio station reported witnessing the police stop two people walking down the street in Exarchia, and beat them badly before arresting them. Fresh attacks by MAT caused multiple injuries to demonstrators. 23 people were detained, of whom 10 have been arrested and charged. There were powerful actions in provincial cities around Greece against sell-out unions, and clashes between cops and protesters. While in most there were scores of cops and especially undercover agents. P.A.M.E (the syndicalist union of the “Communist” Party) organized separate demos in each city, separating itself from the people’s wrath.

Thessaloniki: A mass demo by more than 10,000 workers, unemployed, students, grassroots unions, leftists, anarchists and angry people in general! A large part of demonstrators marched from the gathering point of Kamara toward the Labor Center where there was gathering point and speech by the corrupted unions of GSEE (General Confederation of Greek Workers) and others. Anarchists shouted slogans against these unions, mics and speakers were disconnected, and demonstrators called for a “wildcat strike”. Along the route of this “intervention demo” texts were distributed to store workers who were not on strike their bosses had threatened some with dismissal should they strike.

During the powerful demonstration that started at around 11:00, ATMs, banks, large chain stores, McDonalds and Closed Circuit TV cameras were smashed. When the demo arrived at the region’s main administrative building, cops came out and attacked the demo using tear gas and flash bang grenades with no provocation. Riot cops and undercovers detained around 20 people from the demo and from building entrances, using an unmarked van. Two or three of those detained were injured and in need of hospital treatment, so the cops turned their detentions into arrests in order to justify the injuries.

Patras: More than 4,000 people marched through the streets. There were attacks with stones and molotov cocktails against the local Courthouse, several banks and a police van. A passive march of a similar size was also organized by P.A.M.E.

Heraklion (Crete): Massive demonstration in the morning with around 2000 grassroots unionists, unemployed, immigrants, leftists, anarchists etc. Some leftists blocked the speeches of the Labor Center’s president and other corrupt labor representatives. Cops trailed the protesters, but there were no clashes even though people smashed windows and painted slogans. In the afternoon an anarchist march was also held in the city’s neighborhoods.

Chania (Crete): Around 1,500 people marched in the city. Blocks of workers, unemployed, students, anarchists and leftist groups but also a block of immigrants who had managed to go on strike participated in the demo. Some people used stink bombs to disrupt business.

Volos: Very massive demo of about 2,500 people. Before the march begun, speeches of local parties representatives and corrupted syndicalist were blocked. Symbolic attacks against banks and the Prefecture building.

Xanthi: One of the largest demos the city has seen. 1,500 people marched downtown, slogans were written on walls and paint was thrown at banks.

Ioannina: Powerful demo of about 2000 people with awesome pulse in the city center. Agricultural tractors also joined in the demonstration.

Similar demonstrations/marches by hundreds of people were held in many other cities and islands of Greece, such as Kavala, Veria, Aigio, Zakynthos, Larissa, Corfu, Lesvos, Naxos, Rethymnon, Serres, and Sparta.

FREEDOM TO ALL HOSTAGES!

WHAT DOES MUMIA FACE LEGALLY AFTER THE NOVEMBER 9th HEARING BEFORE THE THIRD CIRCUIT?

The only legal options that were considered by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, a federal court immediately below the US Supreme Court, at the November 9 hearing were whether Mumia Abu-Jamal is to be executed or get life in prison without parole. The question of Mumia's guilt or innocence and the opportunity of a new trial were not part of this hearing. The Third Circuit decided that issue in March 2008 in a decision made by the same three judges who conducted this hearing.

To grasp the significance of this hearing, one needs to revisit Federal District Court Judge William Yohn, Jr.'s decision of December 18, 2001. In that ruling the judge upheld Mumia's conviction, but at the same time threw out his death sentence on the grounds that the verdict form used by the jury for sentencing at his trial violated the U.S. Supreme Court's *Mills* precedent, thereby prejudicing the jury toward the death penalty rather than life in prison. Yohn then gave the state 180 days to convene a new jury trial only on the issue of Mumia's penalty, in which the choices would be either death or life in prison without parole. On the other hand, if the state did nothing, Yohn ruled that Mumia would automatically be sentenced to life in prison without parole.

At the time he made this decision, Judge Yohn stayed his ruling on overturning the death sentence while the prosecution appealed his decision to the next higher level of federal court, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. (At the same time

Mumia appealed Judge Yohn's decision upholding his conviction). Mumia was therefore never removed from Death Row and remains there to this day.

On March 27, 2008, the Third Circuit upheld Yohn's decision on the death penalty in a 3-0 vote. Again the decision was stayed while the state appealed to the highest federal level, the Supreme Court. (In the same decision, the Third Circuit rejected Mumia's appeal on the conviction by 2-1 that is, upholding the guilty verdict. As before, Mumia appealed that ruling.)

On April 6, 2009 the US Supreme Court refused to hear Mumia's appeal of the Third Circuit's decision upholding his conviction.

On January 10, 2010, the Supreme Court ordered the Third Circuit to reconsider its decision on the death sentence in light of its unanimous rejection of an appeal from a white-supremacist named Spisak. That man admitted to killing at least two people in Ohio and openly stated that he wished to have murdered more. He had appealed his death sentence also as a violation of the *Mills* precedent, but involving a different aspect of it than in Mumia's case. The Sixth Circuit, as did the Third Circuit in Mumia's case, ruled that the death sentence should be thrown out. However, the Supreme Court ruled that the *Mills* precedent did not apply in Spisak's case, and therefore execution, rather than life in prison, was the appropriate penalty. Based on that decision, the Supreme Court questioned the Third Circuit's ruling in Mumia's case, and asked it to reconsider the issue of execution for him as well.

Thus, the hearing on November 9th was on Mumia's penalty only. The choices before the court were either to sustain Yohn's and its own earlier decisions or to reinstate the death penalty. According to those in the courtroom, the attorney who represented Mumia on this issue, Judith Ritter, argued in favor of the applicability of the *Mills* precedent very convincingly. On that basis Mumia's death sentence should not be reinstated. The history of Mumia's case, however, has shown, as in the argument of racial bias in jury selection made before the same three judges three years ago, that precedent and effective arguments are often ignored by the court. This is in favor of a political agenda at least to keep Mumia locked up, if not to see him executed and completely silenced. That racial bias issue easily could have resulted in Mumia's conviction being thrown out, but in a split 2-1 vote, the judges established a new precedent just for Mumia. (All three judges blew off the question of Mumia's innocence). After hearing the new arguments and asking questions, Chief Judge Scirica said that the court would 'take the matter under advisement.') It may be months before a decision is announced.

If the Third Circuit reaffirms its earlier decision to sentence Mumia to life in prison without parole, the state will most likely appeal again to the Supreme Court. If that court agrees with the Third Circuit, or in the unlikely event that the state doesn't appeal at all, the state then will have 180 days to implement Judge Yohn's decision (to let the life sentence stand, or to empanel a new jury to consider the penalty phase).

In that case the prosecution could set a new penalty trial (which would take place in a Pennsylvania state court) in the hope of "winning" a death sentence again. Mumia would actually want the latter to happen, since it would give him some opportunity to introduce new evidence

challenging the prosecution's version of what happened on December 9, 1981, which was the basis for the jury's guilty verdict at his 1982 trial. Thus, while this proceeding would not be a trial on the question of guilt or innocence, but only a hearing on the sentencing issue, new evidence that could undermine Mumia's conviction itself might be introduced.

If the Third Circuit rules against Mumia on the death penalty issue, Mumia will surely appeal to the Supreme Court. But the odds for the Supreme Court to overturn a Third Circuit decision favoring execution are very small, given the reactionary composition of that court.

However, even if the Supreme Court rules for a death sentence, Mumia would still have some legal options. Back in 2001, when Yohn threw out the death penalty based on the *Mills* precedent, he did not deal with several other issues raised by the defense. Therefore, Mumia would have the right to go back before Judge Yohn and ask him to address these other significant issues related to the improper sentencing process at his trial. Such a hearing, though limited to life in prison or execution, would inevitably also include challenges to the prosecution's version of what happened at the crime scene. This would especially be true if grassroots work continues to expose the fraudulent nature of the trial and appeals process as has been done dramatically in the last few years. For example, this work won the release of the long hidden photographs of the crime scene, and the evidence that four people, not three, were present at that scene. This would also be true if grassroots work continues to press for a Department of Justice civil rights investigation and draws greater support and activism. Not only might the death penalty be once again overturned, but Mumia's conviction itself might get thrown out.

Mumia's legal situation remains extremely dangerous as the re-imposition of the death sentence would surely be a big setback in his struggle to demonstrate his innocence. The authorities in Philadelphia are mobilizing for Mumia's execution, and the Supreme Court seems likely to be sympathetic to that agenda. But even with that being said, the right that remains for Mumia to go back to Judge Yohn is very important for opening up space to expose the level of injustice, the violation of due process, and the racism that has permeated the entire history of this case. While the US legal system looks very powerful and impenetrable to justice, the grassroots movement in the US combined with international pressure could force the courts to make decisions that they otherwise would not. Surely Mumia's being alive today, despite three attempts to kill him, twice with scheduled execution days, is a tribute to the massive struggles waged by people across this globe.

The Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition

International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal

Mumia is Innocent! Stop the Frame Up! Free Mumia!

Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition, NYC
P.O. Box 16, College Station, NY, NY 10030
212-330-8029, www.FreeMumia.com, info@FreeMumia.com

OBAMA: Clinton With a Tan

[column written 12/12/10] © 2010
by Mumia Abu-Jamal

As rumblings of discontent arose in the wake of the extension of the Bush era tax cuts by the Obama administration, President Barack Obama pulled out his secret weapon: former President William Jefferson Clinton.

Clinton before a bank of microphones is always a sight to behold, for few politicians have his peculiar mix of pure intelligence, down home folksy charm and sheer performance skills.

It is a measure of our politics that the system elected a man who was virtually a Clinton clone: born to poor and working class people; educated in Ivy League schools; advocates of globalism and neo liberalism, and servants of the business class.

When we recollect the acrimony and bad blood that flowed between the two camps during the campaign, and the post election integration and indeed immersion of Clintonites into all levels of the Obama administration, why should we be surprised when the president runs into a bad squall, and he calls out Bill Clinton?

Bill Clinton, perhaps the most talented politician of his generation, was also Salesman in Chief of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), the pact that dealt a body blow to the very same working class that would be implored to vote for Hillary Clinton in 2008. We have forgotten the almost comic H. Ross Perot, the Independent who opposed Clinton and Bush during the 1992 and '96 elections, based primarily on his anti-NAFTA stance. Perot warned, in so many words, 'If you pass that NAFTA, all you'll hear is a giant sucking sound of jobs and manufacturers goin' to Mexico!'

People laughed at his Texas twang, his big ears, and his lack of height, while Bush and Clinton pooh-poohed his warnings as silly.

We live now amidst the post-NAFTA carnage that has brought mass disaster to both countries.

Only the rich and super rich benefited from NAFTA, as workers in the USA adapted to the new and grim economic realities, and workers in Mexico either joined the burgeoning drug industry or fled to El Norte (to the US) to find work in the fields of agriculture or carpentry.

It is therefore fitting that Obama would call in Clinton, for the man could sell ice to the Inuits, or sand to the Saudis, can surely sell the perverse notion of tax cuts to billionaires...right?

The Power of Truth is Final -- Free Mumia!

Audio of most of Mumia's essays are at:
<http://www.prisonradio.org>

<http://mumiapodcast.libsyn.com/>
Mumia's got a podcast! Mumia Abu-Jamal's Radio Essays - Subscribe at the website or on iTunes and get Mumia's radio commentaries online.

Mumia Abu-Jamal's new book --
JAILHOUSE LAWYERS:
PRISONERS DEFENDING
PRISONERS V. THE USA,
featuring an introduction by Angela Y. Davis
has been released! It is available from City Lights Books:
[http://www.citylights.com/
book/?GCOI3D87286100448090](http://www.citylights.com/book/?GCOI3D87286100448090)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

215 476-8812
212-330-8029

Send our brotha some LOVE and LIGHT at:

Mumia Abu-Jamal20
AM 833520
SCI-Greene20
175 Progress Drive20
Waynesburg, PA 1537020

WE WHO BELIEVE IN FREEDOM
CANNOT REST!

Brown Riders Liberation Party

By Comrade Meztli Yaotl

In the spirit of the Black Panthers and the Brown Berets, a new revolutionary group for the people has been born, the Brown Riders Liberation Party. In full alliance with the Black Riders Liberation Party, we have come together to unify our Brown and Black brothers and sisters during this urgent time in which the fascist state is attacking from every corner. With the resurgence of White Nationalism and White Supremacist groups, coupled with the support of the state's anti-migrant, anti-brown stance, and unparalleled police brutality, we must come together to defeat this monster.

For centuries past and present, our people, both Brown and Black, have been viciously oppressed. They have been murdered, raped, enslaved, forcibly assimilated, lynched, and robbed of their most sacred. For centuries past and present, our people have fought and defended our own when the enemies have come to our gates. Today, more than ever before, it is essential that we fight the circumstances under which we lie. Like our revolutionary brothers and sisters before us -- such as Shaka Zulu, Emiliano Zapata, Malcolm X, the Black Liberation Army, Pancho Villa, Montezuma, Comandante Ramona, and Che Guevara, and countless, nameless, faceless others -- we must look past what society has offered us as reality, what society has offered us as our only choice, and come to terms with what has been placed before us. The fact stands: WE ARE AT WAR!

Our rights and dignity as human beings have been essentially denied through the advent of SB 1070 in Arizona. SB 1070 is testimony to this Nation's objective to EXTERMINATE our people, as blatant racism is now (and has been) part of this country's policy against the people, upon whose backs this nation was built. SB 1070 specifically calls for racial profiling, requesting that anyone suspected of being an "illegal" (Brown), show three forms of identification, proof of their citizenship (which, in this country, most times, means proof of our right to dignity). This is the beginnings of an openly fascist state, where now you must present papers, just as Slaves back in the day had to prove their status in society. Except now, those without are not taken back to their slave masters, but held in detention camps indefinitely or transported to an unknown locale south of the border.

Backed by the Immigration Customs Enforcement and Border Control, the Minutemen, (a Neo-Nazi militia), patrols the borders while maiming, torturing and murdering all those they deem illegal aliens. This is an act of genocide disguised as US Patriotism, where essentially, racists are legitimized by an illegitimate state to commit mass murder on our people. We must stand up and reclaim what is ours. Genocide is an act of war!

Furthermore, everyday, a protracted war of genocide is enacted on both Black and Brown locally, in our communities. The police, AKA, THE PIGS, are the main culprits. Police brutality is rampant in our communities. The recent deaths of Manuel Jaminez, Oscar Grant, Carlos Riviera and De'Andre Brunston are a sure reminder (De'Andre Brunston, who by the way, was brutally machine-gunned down in front of a house, left to die on the door steps for an hour, while THE PIGS airlifted their K-9 unit they sent to attack him, within only minutes). With these deaths, an echo was sent forth like a rolling thunder through out the community: a reminder for those that have become complacent. We are reminded that even in the present, our lives still mean nothing to them.

We are reminded that *la policia* isn't here to help us, to protect or serve us... and historically, they never have. They are here to protect the wealthy, the elite and capital. We are reminded that racism is not over as they continue to beat us, lynch us, killing us in cold blood, with no remorse and no accountability, even in the wake of the first Black President! We are reminded that we are just as much citizens as we were when we were trapped on the plantations picking cotton, building railroads, and getting slaughtered off by the millions trying to protect the lands that were stolen from us and that we were stolen from, all to build their empire, which has stretched around the world with the same effects! We must realize our true histories, and how our pasts are intertwined and bound by the roots, through blood, solidarity, bullet proof love and revolution.

The time has come for disunity between our people to end. The main strategy of COINTELPRO, is to neutralize threats of dissidence. "Divide and conquer" is one of the most effective strategies used to disrupt resistance movements. "Divide and conquer" is what they use to maintain these towers of oppression to keep us enslaved and complacent with our oppressor, yet enraged at our brothers and sisters whom we desperately need to make revolution possible. We stay so fixated on fighting our family, that we leave ourselves vulnerable to attack from the oppressor who is left untouched and unnoticed like a mosquito on the wall waiting to spread its disease.

We stand at polarized ends listening to the lies that they spread to us about ourselves and never question the reality of things. "Illegals are stealing our jobs!" "Black people are just too lazy." Reality is, Capitalism always creates classism, so the poor and unemployed is a symptom of an ongoing issue.

"Illegals are hurting the economy by contributing nothing and leeching off of Federal Programs that our taxes pay!" When reality stands that, America purposely neglects the poor, aid and welfare programs provided. Even more so, many of us provide labor for wages that are only a fraction of what employed US citizens would earn, saving corporations millions and boosting the U.S. economy as a consequence of our own exploitation.

"Illegals don't belong here. Go back to where you came from!" When reality is that, from the tip of North America, to the bottom of South America, we were always here, and long before any European. For instance, Amerigo Vespucci, whom America is named after, or Christopher Columbus, who "discovered" a continent already inhabited with millions of people, who neither needed or desired to be "discovered." We were here long before Europeans set foot on this continent, let alone before they conceptualized that the earth was round and far larger than the small and incomplete world they lived in. Europeans are the real "illegal immigrants" who raped our people and stole and pillaged our lands at the taking, just to turn around about 500 years later and say "We must reclaim the Southwest. 'THEY' are taking over!"

The time has come to reclaim our histories, our culture, our GOD, our tongues, and our DIGNITY. We can't sit by idly and watch this world crumble and die while the greedy of this world do all that they can to remain on top and destroy all that breathes. We don't have a choice. Our future generations are depending on us, just as we have depended on our ancestors to reach this point in time.

Our ancestors did not die in vain over the middle passage and all the countless wars and battles they fought to keep our legacies, our humanity, and our spirits intact. We have an obligation to do all that we can to preserve life. You either ride or you die. Simple as that. As Zapata put it, "I would rather die on my feet, than live on my knees". We must ride for our people, as Malcolm X said, "BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY!" That's for damn sure!

WE RIDE FOR THE IMMEDIATE END TO POLICE BRUTALITY
AND MURDER OF BROWN PEOPLE.

WE RIDE BECAUSE WE BELIEVE WE CAN END POLICE BRUTALITY
IN OUR BROWN COMMUNITY BY ORGANIZING BROWN SELF-
DEFENSE GROUPS DEDICATED TO DEFENDING OUR BROWN
COMMUNITY FROM RACIST POLICE OPPRESSION AND BRUTALITY.

THE 2ND AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION GIVES A RIGHT
TO BEAR ARMS.

WE BELIEVE THAT ALL BROWN PEOPLE SHOULD ARM
THEMSELVES FOR SELF-DEFENSE

THE SAME RACIST DOG THAT BIT YOU, BIT US TOO!
WE MUST MASS TOGETHER TO KILL THAT RACIST DOG!

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

Brown Riders Liberation Party

**PO Box 73688
Los Angeles, CA 90003**

SOMOSTODOS@RISEUP.NET

323.839.7454



"It is better to die on
your feet than to live on
your knees."

**General Emiliano Zapata,
leader of the 20th Century
Mexican Revolution**

JERICO AMNESTY MOVEMENT TO FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS AND P.O.W.s

by LA Jericho

Jericho is a movement with the defined goal of gaining recognition of the fact that political prisoners and prisoners of war exist inside of the United States despite the United States' government's continued denial ... and winning amnesty and freedom for these political prisoners. In November, the Jericho Amnesty Movement held a successful two-day national meeting in Richmond VA, bringing together representatives of chapters around the country as well as other organizations interested in the campaign to free all political prisoners and POWs. JAM adopted a new structure and mechanisms of accountability, featuring a steering committee composed of chapter representatives and elected national staff. Jericho also launched a new campaign for amnesty, clemency, pardons or other forms of release for the political prisoners still held as a result of COINTELPRO attacks on the Black liberation, American Indian, Puerto Rican independence and other movements. Jericho rededicated itself to connecting the issue of political prisoners to the struggles and communities they are part of and to the larger prison system, as well as to relating the continuing manifestations of COINTELPRO in Homeland Security and the USA PATRIOT Act.

Background

The Jericho Movement grew out of a call for a national march on the White House during spring break 1998 by political prisoner Jalil Muntaqim. The call was made in October of 1996 through the Provisional Government–Republic of New Afrika and the New Afrikan Liberation Front, but the organizers decided to use this opportunity to jumpstart a much needed movement to build a united national support organization for political prisoners in general.

The Jericho March

Jericho98 was the collective work of over 50 organizations, defense committees and groups, 64 Jericho Organizing Committees and Students for Jericho making the issue of Recognition and Amnesty for U.S.-held political prisoners and prisoners of war a national one with its successful demonstration and rally at the White House.

The organizers who made up the Jericho Organizing Committees were/are just as diverse as the demonstrators who came from all across the United States, crossing the spectrum. The Jericho Movement was clear that we had to build a movement that left no political prisoner out there on his or her own again if we were to succeed in winning this struggle against racism, classism, and all forms of oppression.

The Beginning of a New Commitment

The March 27, 1998 demonstration was just the beginning of a whole new commitment to supporting these political prisoners and demanding recognition and amnesty for them. There are hundreds of people who went to prison

as a result of their work on the streets against oppressive conditions like indecent housing and inadequate or complete lack of medical care, lack of quality education, police brutality and the murder of people organizing for independence and liberation. These people belonged to organizations like the Black Panther Party, La Raza Unida, FALN, Los Macheteros, North American Anti-Imperialist Movement, May 19th, AIM, the Black Liberation Army, etc., and were incarcerated because of their political beliefs and acts in support of and/or in defense of freedom. Since the founding of Jericho, some political prisoners have been freed. Others, unfortunately, have died in captivity. And new political prisoners are being incarcerated regularly by this repressive, exploitative system.

There is Work to be Done

At the present time there are Jericho chapters operating in California, New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and across the country. Then, too, Jericho is working with local defense committees to bring the cases of individual political prisoners to the public. Building a bond across organizational lines is what Jericho is about ... that's where our strength lies.

The Jericho Movement addresses four principal issues:

1. Build the Amnesty Campaign by locating political prisoners, compiling dossiers on them, and building the case for amnesty.
2. Continuing Educational Campaign about the existence of Political Prisoners inside the U.S.
3. The Jericho Legal Defense Fund provides supportive

expenses for lawyers and law students etc. to provide legal defense for political prisoners.

4. The Jericho Medical Project fights for high quality medical care for political prisoners. Jericho activists regularly visit with and bring family members to see political prisoners, write them and send commissary funds, as well as campaign to prison authorities on their behalf.

How Can You Help?

Organize speaking engagements about political prisoners in your church, school, or community. Write to one or more political prisoners – an extensive list is maintained on our web-site at <http://www.thejerichomovement.com/prisoners.html>. Volunteer to work on one of the projects of the Jericho Movement. Make a financial contribution to Jericho. Make all checks or money orders payable to: Jericho and mail them to: The Jericho Movement, P.O. Box 1272, New York, NY 10013. If you want your contribution to be tax-deductible, please make checks payable to Jericho/IFCO. Organize a Jericho Amnesty Movement chapter in your area. Contact the nearest local chapter to get involved:

National Jericho Movement: www.thejerichomovement.com, P.O. Box 1272, NY, NY 10013 nationaljericho@gmail.com

Albuquerque Jericho Movement: P.O. Box 40473, Albuquerque, NM 87196 www.albq-jericho.org • albq.jericho@gmail.com

Cleveland Jericho Movement: P.O. Box 201923, Shaker Hts, OH 44120 cle.jericho@gmail.com • 216-645-0714

Jericho Amnesty Movement LA: c/o BRLP, PO Box 8297 Los Angeles, CA 90008, 310-495-0299; jerichoamnestylosangeles@gmail.com

New Jersey Jericho Movement: jerseyjericho@gmail.com • contact: 973-738-2205

New York City Jericho Movement: P.O. Box 1272, New York, NY 10013, 718-325-4407 • nycjericho@gmail.com

Oregon Jericho Movement: P.O. Box 17420, Portland, OR 97217 www.oregon-jericho.org • oregon.jericho@gmail.com

Philadelphia Jericho Movement: c/o The A-Space, 4722 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143 215-604-1759 PhillyJericho@riseup.net

Seattle Jericho: c/o Ed Mead, P.O. Box 47439, Seattle, WA 98146 info@seattlejericho.com • www.seattlejericho.com 206-271-5003

Update: Comrade sister Lala of the BRLP is the new National Youth Coordinator of the Jericho Amnesty Movement, committed to building campus and prison chapters of Jericho!

Canada: Violent Invasion of Anti-Racists' Home

Anti-Racist Action Network Statement

At approximately 1:30 AM on Monday, November 8, five masked individuals invaded the home of Bonnie and Jason Devine, long-time anti-racist campaigners in Alberta, Canada. The intruders were armed with bats and hammers, and overwhelmed Jason Devine and a friend who was visiting. Jason's friend was beaten over the head and had his arm broken, while Jason Devine was badly beaten by all five intruders, sustaining a concussion and also requiring stitches at the hospital where both the injured were brought. Nothing was stolen from the Devine family home during this incident, although the family car, laptop computer, and other property were damaged. Reports of a "home invasion robbery" are clearly unfounded. The Devines' four children were asleep at the time of the attack. The five attackers—believed to be neo-Nazis—fled in a dark SUV. This is the latest in a series of violent attacks by nazis in Western Canada and the US "Pacific Northwest," including the ambush shooting of SHARPSkin Luke Querner in Portland OR, and arson of an ARA organizer's home in Vancouver BC after an anti-fa protest.

Preceding the attack on the Devine household, ARA Calgary had distributed flyers in an area where neo-Nazis affiliated with Blood & Honour/Aryan Guard currently live. (Note: the Aryan Guard seems to have merged into the Blood & Honour/Combat 18 neo-Nazi network, not to be confused with the rival Blood & Honour network linked to Volksfront International.) Jason and Bonnie Devine are the only members of Anti-Racist Action Calgary who have a public presence in their own names, and Jason Devine has been targeted by neo-Nazis four previous times, including a February 2008 firebomb attack against a previous residence.

Calgary police responded to this brutal attack by calling Children and Youth Services regarding the Devines' children, due to the violence suffered by Jason Devine. These children have since been allowed to return home. The attitude of the Calgary police is unfortunately all too common when anti-racists are targeted by white supremacists. We have repeatedly seen, as in this case, that when we defend ourselves against fascist attacks, the state is not neutral. It objectively sides with fascist forces and directs its repressive power against those who stand up for their human rights. We reject those, whether from the state, the corporate media, or even among so-called anti-racists, who try to equate Nazis and militant anti-fascists as 'extremists.' We call on all people of good will to denounce both the physical violence of the Nazi perpetrators of the home invasion attack, and the coercive violence of the state in trying to separate the Devines from their children. As is stated in the Anti-Racist Action Network's Points of Unity: "In this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other." It is now time to stand by the Devine family and our antifascist comrades in Calgary.

The ARA Network has set up a Paypal account to aid the Devine's with expenses in the aftermath of the nazi and state attacks. Donations can be sent via Paypal to: [support\[at\]antiracistaction\[dot\]org](mailto:support[at]antiracistaction[dot]org). For those interested in reading about Anti-Racist Action Calgary, their website is <http://ara-calgary.anarchistservices.ca/>

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK Four Points of Unity

1) WE GO WHERE THEY GO: Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

2) WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US: This doesn't mean we never go to court, but the cops uphold white supremacy and the status quo, They attack us and everyone that resists oppression. We must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS: In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom. ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. We want a free classless society.

WE INTEND TO WIN!

Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)

**PO Box 1055* Culver City CA 90232*310-495-0299
antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com*www.antiracist.org**

**ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK contact info:
www.antiracistaction.org
info@antiracistaction.org**

NOTE: ARA's **Four Points of Unity** above were modified at the July conference and ratified on-line to include opposition to Islamophobia, transphobia, and systemic police abuse and repression.

TO THE AFRIKAN INTERCOMMUNALIST YOUTH- TO THEIR FATHERS- WE WILL NOW CRITICIZE THE UNJUST WITH THE WEAPON!

Statement from the Central Committee of the BRLP:

All Power to the People!

Revolutionary Greetings! Due to the Black revolutionary consciousness that is surging around the country, the Black Riders Liberation Party has organized a powerful nationwide prison chapter. New recruits from all over the country are setting up branches for the prison chapter in the spirit of George Jackson and his brother/alter-ego Jonathan Jackson. Each branch is organized by state. We have received numerous requests from people on the streets around the country to set up chapters, especially on the East Coast. Also, the Northern California chapter of the Black Riders was officially opened during the struggle to seek justice for Oscar Grant with a Feed the People program amongst the rebellious masses in Oakland. We openly admit that the requirements to be a member of Black Riders requires strict discipline but we encourage others to take up the banner of freedom and bang on the system with a strong, structured revolutionary organization. There must be no other course but to fight it out. Every political and military position must be held to the last Black man and Black woman. There must be no retreat and no surrender. With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause each one of us must fight on to the end. We call on all Black people who still believe in freedom to join us or support us with their minds, bodies, and souls. There is a great war to be won and we will win it together. The Black man and Black woman, once properly politically educated, culturally inspired, and physically trained is the greatest human fighting machine the world has ever known!

RULES OF DISCIPLINE:

GUIDELINES OF DISCIPLINE FOR EVERY COMRADE IN THE BLACK RIDERS LIBERATION PARTY

Discipline is very necessary, if our objective is to be achieved. If revolutionary Afrikan Inter-communalists followed and adhered to strict self discipline, rules would not be necessary. So to safeguard and advance revolutionary Afrikan Inter-communalism, each comrade is responsible to him/her self and the global liberation front for maintaining and following the rules of discipline.

1) Each comrade is a potential leader and must at all times work toward obtaining those qualities that will make him/her the best and most efficient leader, learning when, where and how to take the initiative.

2) Each comrade must develop and maintain consistent study habits of the local/global political and socio-economic environment (any and all publications available: books, newspapers, and magazines that will help to give social consciousness), and all materials dealing with the science of struggle and the enemy.

3) Each comrade must be selfless; sharing and providing assistance to comrades with basic necessities and outside contacts if at all possible. Commendation and recognition is to be given for selfless acts. Taking undue advantage of comrades or black people must be disciplined.

4) Physical fitness is a must. Each comrade must maintain an exercise program. Group practice is desirable and if possible, should be systematic and punctual for cohesive effect.

5) Each comrade is to refrain from psychologically abusive and egotistical behavior; such as unnecessary loud talking, bragging and etc.

6) No comrade is to fear constructive criticism. Constructive criticism is a critical view or remark(s) backed by evaluation, knowledge, investigation, propriety, and concern.

7) Among comrades there shall be no egoism, vanity, intemperance, or intolerance. We understand that there are people with different religious views, but comrades who practice Afrikan Inter-communalism will always seek to persuade others to the correctness of the Black Riders Liberation Party.

8) Each comrade will diligently struggle to attain the goals, objectives, and general policies to their fullest capacities. They will always be mindful of the quality and quantity of their service, dedication and determination, and to always be willing to do what is required to bring an end to injustice, racism, police terrorism, black on black violent crime and global oppression.

9) Any comrade in violation of the rules must be disciplined according to the violation, and no punishment is to exceed the offense.

10) Each comrade must make an effort to teach non-members of the party suffering from lack of confidence and/or fear of the capitalist oppressor to over-come these obstacles. Educate to liberate is the motto for this purpose. To lead through the success of one's practice, leadership must be decisive; without sacrifice or participation in revolutionary activity, there is no leadership.

11) Every comrade with former "hood" or "tribal" connections should work day and night to be a positive revolutionary example to his or her homies. A comrade with street organizational ties should strive to educate their homies to the truth that it is real respect to be gained by riding on the real racist enemy instead of fighting other black people. If possible, this comrade should work on creating a cease fire between warring street formations involved in black on black violence. This comrade must be extremely politically educated and militant in order to facilitate improvised ways to accomplish this important job without backsliding into black on black violent crime and reactionary suicide.

12) Each cadre leader may establish additional rules in their environment to enhance the harmony in their area, keeping in mind the nature of human behavior, such as maintaining respect of female comrades, and the personal relationship between comrades. **All additional rules must be reported and approved by the Central Committee of the Black Riders Liberation Party.**

13) All information is disseminated on a need to know basis.

14) Under no condition will there be any fighting between comrades.

15) All comrades will show respect to all black people in word and actions.

16) All comrades should attempt to be polite and courteous to all people, regardless of race, creed, color or sexual orientation.

17) No comrade will place any material commodity above or before the Black Riders Liberation Party, the people, or the new black liberation movement.

18) No comrade will display or have an arrogant, disdainful, belittling or chauvinistic attitude.

19) No comrade is permitted to use, produce, distribute, process, fund, or take part in the sale of heroin, cocaine (in any form), LSD, or PCP. Nor will they take any type of pill for the purpose of getting high (uppers or downers) and no comrade will distribute such pills or take part in the sale of such pills or other illegal drugs.

20) No comrade will ever appear in public intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol, or any other illegal drug.

21) No comrade shall lie about his/her position/rank to the people or another comrade.

22) No comrade will reveal Black Rider secrets to anyone.

23) No comrade will use the influence or reputation of Black Riders for his/her personal interest.

24) All cadre leaders are to set up decolonization programs/or classes in political and physical education, first aid, karate (empty hand martial arts) weaponry, and other topics such as nutrition and horticulture, which will enable Black people to better survive, and to be able to contribute to the survival of the party.

25) All comrades are expected to take part in the established decolonization programs and classes.

26) All comrades will carry out orders given to them by their cadre leader or staff member.

27) All comrades are potential leaders and are expected to take the initiative and develop themselves to the utmost, so as to be capable of taking the initiative and providing leadership whenever it is needed.

28) All comrades will read the Black Riders Liberation Party's manual, and put to memory the rules of discipline, code of conduct, ways to combat liberalism, and points of attention as part of their everyday lives.

29) When a cadre leader is not available, comrades will vote and appoint one, on the merit of knowledge, experience, dedication, and courage. **All newly elected cadre leaders must report and be approved by the Central Committee of the Black Riders Liberation Party.**

30) All cadre leaders are to make available an avenue through which members can air grievances. There must exist a conscientious effort on the part of the cadre leader to resolve these grievances in a humane, patient, and sensitive manner.

31) Cadre leaders are to send dispositions of all grievances to the Central Committee for review.

32) All comrades who are imprisoned will report immediately upon release to a designated cadre leader or other instructed location.

33) No comrade can join any other group outside of the new Black Liberation Army.

34) Always remember that bulletproof Black on Black love and unity is our number one goal to create revolution in fascist AmeriKKKa!

"Settle your quarrels, come together, understand the reality of our situation, understand that fascism is already here, that people are already dying who could be saved, that generations more will die or live poor butchered half-lives if you fail to act. Do what must be done, discover your humanity and your love in revolution. Pass on the torch. Join us, give up your life for the people."

-The Great General George Jackson

**BLACK RIDE OR DIE!
BLACK POWER TO BLACK PEOPLE!
ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!**

**JOIN NOW!
FREE THE LA 2!**

**Black Riders Liberation Party
PO Box 8297
Los Angeles, CA 90008
BLACKRIDERSLP@YAHOO.COM
323.245.5320**



Rumors October-December 2010

Street stories of recent anti-racist & anti-fascist action (the verb if not the groups) in the US & Canada

DISCLAIMER

The name of this blotter is to be taken literally. Submissions were received via internet from anonymous antifascists, who may or may not have been speaking about themselves, or from released communiqués and report-backs. This is just to demonstrate some of the realities of everyday anti-fascism, and is **not to be taken as encouragement or endorsement**.

Oakland, CA: Reaction to the Nov. 5 sentencing of murdering cop Joseph Mehserle for his execution of Oscar Grant was massive and militant. After the BART cop was given only 2 years minus time served, leaving him to be released in as few as a few months, the streets of Oakland filled with angry people who were met with intense police repression and 100s of arrests in attempt to disperse them.

West Coast, US: Austrian Far-Right Fascist Band Allerseelen (for more info on them visit RoseCityAntifa.weebly.com) encountered Antifa resistance to their December west coast tour. Their date in Portland was cancelled after antifascists told the space of the band's ties and views. At the time of this writing, their LA show had already had to move venues once, and the people booking Allerseelen have been receiving tons of complaints.

Chicago, IL: Chicago's ultra-right Tea Party released a statement related to a recent alleged arson at their Christmas party on 12/10. According to the tea-baggers, someone sneaked into the bathroom of the bar where the party was and left 4 burning road flares taped together in the trash can, filling the bar with smoke and forcing everyone to evacuate. Written on the toilet seat in red was "FUCK THE CHICAGO TEA PARTY."

Clackamas County, OR: December 11 is known in Nazi/WP circles as "martyrs' day." Their "martyrs" are members of the infamous "Order," who committed a string of murders and robberies in an attempt to start a "white revolution" in the 1980's. Anti-fa in OR 'celebrated' this year by distributing hundreds of "WANTED" posters, outing several key members of Volksfront.

Portland, OR: Rose City Antifa used "martyrs' day" as an excuse to release over a hundred gathered intelligence photos of Volksfront and other Nazis in the Portland area on Portland Indymedia. RCA is asking for more information on those pictured, and the pictures/original release can be found at Portland.inymedia.org. Here's to an increase in their martyrs.

Chicago, IL: Pro-choice militants threw chunks of asphalt through the dining room window of anti-choice patriarch

Joe Scheidler of the so-called "Pro-Life Action League." Accompanying the asphalt chunks was a note signed by some "crazy feminist bitches." 'Nuff Said.

Chicago, IL: The racist, xenophobic propaganda film "The Minutemen" (dealing with the anti-immigrant vigilante border patrol group of the same name) was being screened at the Chicago international film festival in early October and was met with antifascist resistance. The first screening had protesters out front, and several antifascists confronted Minuteman leader Robert Crooks, pelting him with eggs as he tried to leave the film festival. The next day, several antifascists obtained tickets to the screening and disrupted Crooks by calling him out as a racist. Finally, the film's producer Nick Weissman was smashed with a dog-shit pie as he attempted to give a press interview, putting a final emphasis on what happens when you bring murderous racists and propaganda to our cities.

Des Moines, IA: Over 60 antifascists gathered in front of the Iowa state capitol in anticipation of an announced "White Pride Day" in mid-November. Several white nationalists were seen driving around the perimeter of the area, but all of them were too scared of the mob of anti-fas to park. With superior numbers and physical attractiveness, the anti-fa succeeded in shutting down the rally before it even began.

Phoenix, AZ: A march by the Neo-Nazi National Socialist Movement (NSM) through Phoenix in mid-November was met with stiff resistance. Rocks were thrown at the Nazis and the cops defending them, and the route was blocked by a group of antifa who were met with tear gas and a few arrests. March organizer J.T. Ready was briefly confronted by anti-fa before being rescued by an undercover cop.

Philadelphia, PA: Antifascists turned out on October 10 for Keystone State Skinheads' (KSS) annual Leif Ericson day celebration. Recent months have seen a marked reduction in activity by KSS, once one of the most active and public white power groups. On the day of, not a single nazi showed up, leaving antifa to pose for pictures on the statue of Ericson. This seems to be the end of KSS, not a moment too soon. KSS co-founder Steve Smith organized a small Leif Ericson event weeks later. It was held by American 3rd Position Party, a racist political party that has been recruiting from the ashes of KSS, probably to save face after gloating antifa made public the sudden demise of Leif Ericson Day.

Love Park 4 No More!

*"Cops wanna knock me, D.A. wanna box me in
But somehow, I beat them charges like Rocky" --Jay-Z*

It's been a long time since we sent out any news on our case; almost a year by our calculations because until now, there was nothing new to report. After last February's frustratingly comedic court date we heard nothing about the plea deal we'd been offered. Checking our court dockets, it seemed the case had been forgotten about. Then in late November the DA's office awoke from their slumber and scheduled a court date so we could accept the plea offer; and end this case once and for all. On Dec. 9, we returned to court again. We agreed to the plea; all 8 misdemeanor charges were reduced to a single summary offense of disorderly conduct (the equivalent of a traffic summons). Making the deal even better, there would be no further punishment, fine or probation. The judge made sure we understood what we were agreeing to, and told us all to have a nice day. 3-1/2 years of court proceedings resolved in under 90 seconds. Anti-climactic? Yes, but a huge relief. The last thing left was to get our bail money back. We should have known better. At the bail refund window, we were told to return in 20 days with our bail receipts and ID. Then it'll be another 2-3 weeks until they cut checks and mail them to us. As \$500 of this bail money was community raised, we want to let people know we will be using some to pay our court fees. The remainder will be donated to comrades in Phoenix who were arrested trying to stop the National Socialist Movement from marching in their city. For more information on that legal case, see Phoenix Class War Council's reportback: Riot, Si Se Puede! <http://firesneverextinguished.blogspot.com/2010/12/riot-si-se-puede.html>

Last but not least, we want to thank everyone that has stood by us. We wouldn't have been able to do this without you.

Anti-Fascist Hackers Destroy Dozens of Neo-Nazi Web Sites, Publish Private Emails and Databases

Hackers in November destroyed over a dozen white supremacist websites, releasing private information on a variety of nazi, KKK, and other racist organizations. Private email correspondence, online forum and store databases, and thousands of home addresses and phone numbers belonging to known fascists leaders were posted on the defaced websites along with anarchist propaganda. The hackers targetted a variety of different fascist groups, including Blood & Honour, Combat 18, the Creativity Movement, Vinlanders Social Club, Aryan Front, White Power Skinheads, the Empire Knights of the KKK, the National Socialist Movement, ISD Records, and more.

The released private email correspondence revealed a number of embarrassing and often disturbing stories about top neo-nazi leaders in the US and is expected to cause infighting and disunion in the white supremacist scene. Some of the profiled nazis were involved in the military, have been to prison for hate crimes, have raped or molested people, or are just plain racist losers - making one wonder why such a supposed "master race" attracts some sick and disturbed people to their movement. At least two active duty law enforcement officers were identified as nazis.

The release of personal identifying information (including full names, addresses, phone numbers, passwords, and private pictures) gives anti-fascist researchers and activists a treasure trove of intel to work with, and is also sure to make the boneheads sleep a little less easy at night.

The anonymous activists declared: "We did this in solidarity with our comrades who have been attacked by organized fascists in the past year." The attacks included the November 8 attack at Jason and Bonnie Devine's home in Calgary, the March 27th shooting of SHARP Luke Querner in Portland OR, the April 6 bombing of an anti-fascist house in Vancouver, and the murder of Russia RASH founder Ivan Khutorskoy just over one year ago. The hackers further said: "These incidents ... demonstrate that the fascist threat can't be ignored, and we need to take any and all forms of action to drive them off the street and off the internet." The statement continued: "Confronting fringe nazi boneheads is just one front in the larger struggle against the institutional racism which attacks colonized people in relation to land and labor. We are also fighting anti-immigrant 'papers please' laws like SB1070, racist pigs in the police force like Joe Arpaio, John Burge and Johannes Mehserle, and the prison industrial complex which disproportionately targets people of color and the impoverished."

New York, NY: Members of the ultra-nationalist anti-communist band Venganza Tatuada and their crew Battalion 49 attacked a group of antifascists in mid-October. The antifa had shown up near their show to confirm reports from that venue that they had cancelled the show. After they encountered the more numerous fascists, the antifa identified themselves as the very ones who had gotten their first venue to cancel the show and phone jammed the second venue all day. Several members of B49 and VT pulled out knives and rocks and attacked the antifa, who scattered though a few of them had some minor injuries. Their overreaction may be related to a member of VT having his nose broken after starting a fight with an antifascist a few weeks earlier.

Tomball, TX: This September Tomball became the target of several racist anti-immigrant groups and neo-nazis for the city council's rejection of proposed anti-immigrant ordinances. Pickets were organized by scumbags from the Minutemen, Border Watch, and Tea Party supporters, and attended by racist bikers and neo-nazis. Texas antifascists came out in force to oppose them, and one antifa was attacked by a nazi with a camera tripod. The antifa defended themselves, which prompted the nazi to run to the police and show video taken only after the attack had begun, leading to the antifascist's arrest.

Columbus, OH: Columbus is a city with a long history of radical antifascism, and did not disappoint this September when Columbus ARA received a tip that some local boneheads would be meeting at a Lowe's parking lot to distribute literature around the city. 20 ARA and antifa approached the Nazis in the parking lot and told them to fuck off. The Nazis complied, leaving and attempting to regroup nearby, where they were again set upon by ARA. At this point the police arrived and the groups were separated. Antifa then had to deal with a few hours of police harassment, but the Nazis didn't distribute a flyer.

North Brunswick, NJ: Hub City ARA and other queers/allies gathered to protest a planned picket by Westboro "God Hates Fags" Baptist Church at a high school for a production of "The Laramie Project." WBC a no-show.

Clifton, NJ: Neo-Nazi band "Call the Paramedics" was dropped from NJ Death Fest, culminating a rash of cancellations of virtually all their shows since their nazi ties/affiliations were brought to light by antifascists. Word on the street is that antifa who had played with some other bands on the bill got to talking to those bands, and that was all it took.

Pittsburgh, PA: David Japenga was sentenced to 6 to 18 months after being convicted of property destruction during the G-20 protests in Pittsburgh in 2009. On the night of his conviction in November, police report a group of protesters marching in downtown Oakland (the neighborhood in Pittsburgh David was arrested in) and thousands of dollars of damage to the windows of a bank and upscale eatery. Japenga has since been released early after serving a few more weeks on top of his already over 4 months served.

Berkeley, CA & Muncie, IN: Pittsburgh is not the only city to see attacks on banks. Recently there have been statements released relating to vandalisms of the 1st Source Bank of Indiana and a Wells Fargo in Berkeley.

Tacoma, WA: An anonymous person or persons released a statement claiming responsibility for a Dec. 14 smashing of all the windows of a police substation there. The person or group attributed the attack to the oppression or prisons and the regular murders committed by police.

Montreal, QC: An anonymous statement was released claiming responsibility for a December vandalism of a dozen vehicles belonging to the Bell building in the city. The statement claimed that Bell refused to publicly release footage their security camera captured of a police shooting out front of a Muslim man on his way home from mosque and that this was retribution.

Montreal, QC: A statement was released in mid-Nov. claiming responsibility for window smashing and paint defacement of the Russian embassy in Montreal. The communiqué named repression of antifascists and environmentalists by the Russian government, related to the anti-fas' attempt to protect a forest in Khimiki.

Portland, OR: A smoke bomb was set off in a cop bar in Portland early December 6, and a short statement was released by anonymous anarchists in solidarity with several victims of state repression/murder.

Modesto, CA: Dec. 6, a group of 15 protesters marched into a Modesto police station during a public meeting, chanting "Cops! Pigs! Murderers!" They wore masks bearing the faces of two people killed by Modesto police in September. The anarchists disrupted the meeting shortly but avoided any arrests.

Seattle, WA: Also on Dec. 6, a banner was dropped from an overpass in Seattle reading "Police violence is no accident. Cops are killers." A short statement announcing the banner drop attributed it to the anniversary of Greek police murdering a young teen and the uprising that followed.

Asheville, NC: A statement was released claiming responsibility for an attack on 6 Department of Corrections cars in late Nov. and attributing it to police repression of anarchists and radicals.

Asheville, NC: About 50 anarchists marched and rallied in support of the "Asheville 11," who were arrested this past May Day for alleged property destruction at a march. The group marched from a nearby park to the county jail, chanting with several banners, including one reading, "Police are the absolute enemy."

Portland, OR: An anonymous statement was released claiming responsibility for the vandalism of 5 unmarked police cars. The cars had their tires slashed and were doused in paint thinner. The statement also espoused anti-state, anti-police and anti-racist ideas.

To contribute items to this blotter, email info@antiracistaction.org

Book Review:

Defying the Tomb by Kevin "Rashid" Johnson

Reviewed by Ed Mead

It is not often that I write a book review. I'm a bit ashamed to admit that I read very few books. The last review I wrote was for Mumia Abu-Jamal's *Jailhouse Lawyers: Prisoners Defending Prisoners v. the U.S.A.*, which I read because I'm a former jailhouse lawyer, and also because it contained a chapter by me (it's also an excellent book). I've recently read two other books, *Guerilla USA*, and *Creating a Movement with Teeth*, both by Daniel Burton Rose. I read these because they were about the George Jackson Brigade, of which I was a part. It isn't that I only read books that have something about me in them. It is, rather, that as a revolutionary I see little on the political horizon containing much of what I would call real political substance or content. I tell my friends that I am "looking for [the] Jesus" of political writings, I am looking for a revolutionary—a writer that strikes a chord within my understanding of dialectical and historical materialism as applied to the conditions and circumstances existing in the world today.

I have found such a book. It is *Defying the Tomb* by Kevin "Rashid" Johnson.¹ If you fancy yourself a progressive revolutionary and also feel you are too smart to be a part of one of those dead-end ABCDEF groups, then this just may be the book for you. I wrote a small back cover blurb for *Defying* that said something to the effect of this: "Your mission (should you choose to accept it) is to buy and many copies of this book as you can, read it, and then get those copies into the hands of as many prisoners as possible." This is good advice and something I am passing along here as well.

With a forward by Russell "Maroon" Shoats, an introduction by Tom Big Warrior, and an Afterword by Sundiata Acoli, I figured this was going to be a good read. It was. Mr. Shoats ends his forward by referring to Rashid and his comrades as young lions, he says: "...it's up to all of you to recognize how much we need him, and all of these *unmentioned* younger soldiers; comrades like him can raise us up. Put as much protection around him as you can. Our future depends on it!" This is true. Rashid must be defended against the machinations of the state or he will suffer the fate of Fred Hampton, George Jackson, and countless other murdered revolutionaries here and around the globe.

Like Comrade George before him, Rashid takes the reader to a level of political thought not fully contemplated before, but yet one we already know so well. Also like George, Rashid grew up on the streets and with a street mentality—a mentality that landed him in prison at a young age. We next go through a section of the book with Rashid and watch the process of his in prison political maturation. Before long we are treated to the content of the letters exchanged between Rashid

¹ Available at AK Press (<http://www.akpress.org/>) and Left Wing Books (<https://secure.leftwingbooks.net/>).

and a fellow convict called Outlaw, where we see those now mature politics address a practice that verifies theory. Weaved throughout the whole book are discussions of subjects such as the application of dialectical and historical materialism to global, national, and local conditions, as well as a good discussion on the question of democratic centralism (don't screw up your nose, read what he has to say).

When I was a part of Men Against Sexism² (MAS) in the Washington State Penitentiary at Walla Walla back in the 1970s, it became necessary to align with a group of social prisoners who were then running the Lifers Club. In making this union I insisted that we be organized on the basis of democratic centralism (DC). When one of our MAS members subsequently violated the group's security a decision was made to beat the offender with clubs fabricated from broomsticks. I argued against this assault but after

² An organized group of gay and anti-sexist prisoners that fought homophobia and prisoner-on-prisoner rape, using tools such as a newsletter, films, and six home-made shotguns.

the discussion ended I was out-voted and because of DC was I forced to participate in the beating of a comrade.³ Ever since that time I have not been a proponent of DC. Not until now. Rashid's examines the past abuses of DC and points out how its true intent has been replaced by some form of authoritative commandism.

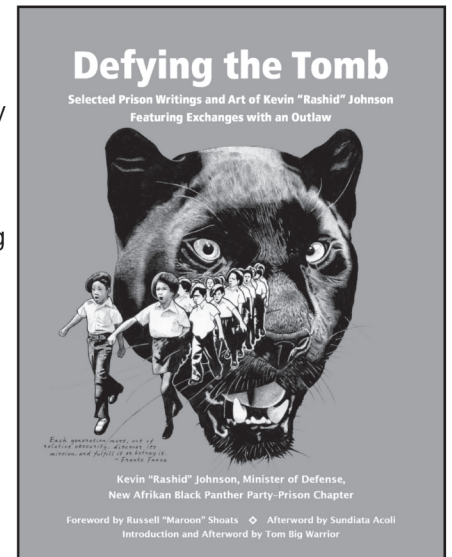
Rashid correctly notes that none of Lenin's contemporaries in the global Social Democratic movements criticized DC, not even Rosa Luxemburg, who strongly opposed features of "Leninist" organizations. He concludes by saying, "... corruption and abuses of power are essentially impossible when dc is observed, since all Party members, leaders especially, are subject to criticism, exposure and recall through open democratic processes. Leaders are *elected* to their positions based upon *demonstrated* qualifications and integrity, and are subject to having their powers *revoked* for *failure* to live up to their responsibilities, also by majority vote." (Emphasis in original.)

³ Half way through the beating I threw my stick down in disgust. Another prisoner picked it up and continued hitting the offender, who ended up with both arms broken.

Defying the Tomb

Selected Prison Writings and Art of Kevin "Rashid" Johnson, New Afrikan Black Panther Party Minister of Defense, Featuring Exchanges With an Outlaw

"Kevin 'Rashid' Johnson has put together an outstanding compendium of political essays and letters that addresses many of the critical issues of today. His intra-prison correspondences with his comrade, Outlaw, is a rewarding study in the determined and ingenious maneuvers that prisoners have to go through to politically educate and organize themselves—and others around them. As a result, just reading the book itself provides one with the basic foundation of a political education." Sundiata Acoli



\$20.00 • ISBN 978-1-894946-39-1 • paperback • 386 pages
foreword by Russell "Maroon" Shoats, introduction by Tom Big Warrior,
afterword by Sundiata Acoli

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The comparisons of Rashid to Comrade George cannot be understated. To my way of thinking *Defying the Tomb* is a more mature and well-reasoned *Blood In My Eye*—Rashid builds upon and advances George's political thinking. The book concludes with a series of documents written by Rashid on subjects such as "On the Roles and Characteristics of the Panther Vanguard Party and Mass Organizations" and "What's Left of the Left." As well as other commentaries on subjects such as the Black entertainment and the media, and various commentaries on today's America. Rashid's knowledge and research are impressive and his writing style is one that's easy to follow.

Rather than go further into the content of the book, I will merely urge you to buy and read it for yourself. For my part, I have ordered ten copies and will work to use Rashid's book as the focus of a Seattle-based study group. That is as high a praise as I can possibly give for any book. Read this one now. Then start a study group of your own; one focus of which can be sending copies of *Defying* in to rights and class conscious prisoners.

Calendar of Up-Coming Anti-Racist Actions

Tuesday, January 4, 2-6:00 PM

Protest impunity in the police killing of Oscar Grant III, demand feds indict Mehserle and other cops, US Justice Dept., 312 N. Spring St., L.A.

Monday, January 17 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Martin Luther King Coalition for Jobs, Justice and Peace - contingent in L.A. parade, MLK Blvd & Western, 10:00 AM

(Follow up meeting of on-going MLK Coalition for Jobs Justice & Peace Sat., Jan. 22, Holman UM Church, W. Adams; kwazinkrumah@aol.com)

6:00 PM 1/17 Confront Attorney General Holder: Lock up Killer Cops, Not Migrant Workers! Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Century Blvd. near LAX

February-March, TBA

Los Angeles showings of the new documentary film *COINTELPRO 101* at the Pan-African Film Festival on Feb. 17 at 2:15 PM and Feb. 19 at 1:45 pm, also at the REDCAT Theater downtown, other venues. Exact dates, times and venues to be announced, but don't miss this searing documentary.

For more info, call 310-495-0299 or check www.freedomarchives.org

**Last weekend in March, LA Trade Technical College
Grassroots Community Conference and Teach-In on Housing, Homelessness, Foreclosures, Gentrification,
the Privatization of Public Housing, Food and Water Sovereignty and Environmental Justice**
for more information, check back with www.grassrootskpfk.org or email grassrootskpfk@gmail.com

April, 2010 Peoples' Tribunal on Human Rights

A distinguished panel will hear testimony indicting the government and named individuals in the political and corporate elite and criminal injustice system for human rights violations in the treatment of political prisoners in the U.S. For particulars: jerichoamnestylosangeles@gmail.com

This may take place in conjunction with a planned Community Conference on People's Justice, addressing issues of police abuse and murder, the prison-industrial complex/mass incarceration, criminalization of youth, the death penalty and political prisoners. For more info call 310-495-0299.

PART'S PERSPECTIVE:

The Missing Ingredients

by Michael Novick, *Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)*

What is the recipe for a revolutionary transformation of this society?

The need for such a process should be as evident as the nose on our faces. The evidence is in the melting glaciers in the Himalayas and the vanishing polar ice cap in Greenland, where the indigenous tell us that the water is now running out from under the ice even in winter. The evidence, as Derrick Jensen eloquently tells us, is in the disappearance of the salmon (not to mention the frogs, the bees, and the fish in the sea). The evidence is in the city of rat-infested cargo containers piling up outside the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, because of every six containers of imports that come into that busiest port complex in the U.S., only one goes back out with exports. Not to mention that much of what the US physically exports these days is cardboard, scrap metal, toxic electronic waste for “recycling,” and old clothes.

The evidence is in the pervasive pan-opticon of surveillance, counter-intelligence, and domestic espionage that scans every email, biometrically identifies every face, and sanitizes the results of every search on the Internet. The evidence is in the robot soldiers being developed by DARPA. It's in the drones that practically fly themselves along the US-Mexico border as well as the ‘tribal’ regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and it's in the coffins that keep coming out of those regions, as well as Iraq, where President Obama has declared the war is over.

The evidence is in the schools of every city in the country, where enrollments are rising and teaching and support staff are dropping. One of the “anomalies” of the recent economic contraction and jobless “recovery” is that it is the first one in which the loss of employment opportunities in other fields hasn't meant an increase in people opting to be teachers. Recent figures show a 50% drop in first and second year teachers, the result of massive layoffs and ‘reductions in force’ at many school districts. LA Unified may pretend to be worried about “drop-outs,” but the teacher shortage would be insurmountable even with the planned class size increases, if 50% or more of Black and Mexicano/indigenous high school students were not being tracked into the prisons or the grave before they finish school.

The evidence is in the mortality and morbidity statistics for the US, where life expectancy is falling, and the country with the highest total and per capita spending on “health care” has the worst health in the industrialized world. The evidence is in the coming “double-dip” in the housing market, with a new round of foreclosures imminent. The evidence is incarcerated by the millions in the US gulag of jails, prisons and juvenile halls, augmented by those on parole or probation, those underemployed or disenfranchised because of their prior convictions. The evidence is in unemployment so persistent during the supposed recovery that the government has been forced to change its statistical measures to allow for people ‘unemployed’ for up to 5 years.

But if the evidence is so clear, why is the population so docile? Why is the only sign of animus or agitation apparently on the mostly white Right, in the Tea Party, the neo-Confederates, and those who have moved beyond ‘respectable’ white nationalism to neo-fascist and neo-nazi formations? What happened, in the US, to the in-the-streets anti-war movement, or the anti-globalization movement before it? Like Oswald the Rabbit, Disney's first creation now lurking in Wasteland in a new video-game featuring “Epic Mickey” Mouse, is there a shadowy place where outrage and resistance have gone to lick their wounds?

Actually, the name of the place where throttled and neutered social movements go is widely known. It's the corporate Democratic Party, where the corpse of environmentalism can dance with the ghost of feminism. There a toothless labor “movement,” like a zombie reanimated by a new generation of “Communists,” can consort with a gay “liberation” movement that fights for the right to enter into the marriage contract and to serve in the imperial armed forces. There, the children of those who, in return for the perks of government office, sold out the dream of equality and freedom of the civil rights movement can encounter the children of migrant workers, whose DREAM of a path to citizenship through assimilation and loyalty to the Empire (at the university or the military) died stillborn. US Out of Iraq, have you met SANE/Freeze? Clean for Gene, I'd like you to meet Change We Can Believe In.

But we cannot blame the Democratic Party for failing to deliver on its campaign promises or our illusions, anymore than you can blame a scorpion for biting you when you give it a ride across the river. The fault is not in our stars, but in ourselves. What are we missing and how can we reclaim it?

The yeast that is lacking in the loaves that keep coming out of the oven flat is three-fold: caring, clarity and audacity.

Caring, because too many of us are like walking wounded, punch drunk from losses.

The fighters on our side of the domestic war that the US waged in the 1960s and 70s through mechanisms like COINTELPRO ended up dead, imprisoned, isolated or with a kind of PTSD – post traumatic stress disorder. And so they and we are suffering, and mostly, suffering in silence. We lick our wounds privately, not recognizing or applying our collective capacity to heal and nurture each other. As Che said, as Malcolm demonstrated, “A true revolutionary is guided by great feelings of love.” We need to love ourselves, love the land, love each other and to act out of love to heal the wounds, mend the biosphere, and to make the connections of mutual aid and solidarity that can overcome, while acknowledging, our vulnerabilities and weaknesses.

Clarity, because blinded by identification with or as the oppressor, we refuse to see the true nature of the system we live within and are part of, and of the enemy we confront.

The US is and always has been a settler colonial empire, the bastion of reaction domestically and internationally. Behind every one of the problems we confront – hunger, homelessness, police abuse, mis-education, rape, catastrophic climate change, poverty, ill health – stands an implacable enemy whose lifeblood is the profits that flow out of each of those problems. Unemployment, war, militarism, and environmental devastation are not policies that can be changed or ameliorated through enlightenment or education. They are part and parcel of a system of colonialism and capitalism that must be uprooted and replaced. Any effective action we take or change we make will be met with repression, so it must be central to our movements to build the capacity to resist and fight back in the face of repression. And bear in mind that cooptation is a form of repression, the carrot that dangles from the stick. The system has centuries of practice of substituting bourgeois “liberation” movements for revolutionary ones. Based on class collaboration and identification with the Empire and the oppressor, it can stock the ranks of bourgeois women's movements, or replace conscious hip-hop with materialistic gangsta-glorifying rap. It's always ready offer a New Deal or just a big deal, the best deal we can get. It's time to say, no deal.

Audacity, because despite all its might and wealth, the Empire has feet of clay – not only an irreconcilable contradiction with its subjects, the people it exploits and oppresses, but an irremediable contradiction within itself.

A system based on stolen land and labor, whose operations destroy the land, the sea and sky, whose growth is inevitably consumed by collapse like the seven fat cows eaten by the seven lean cows in the Pharaoh's dream, cannot endure. The Empire is aware that all its wealth and power come from the people it exploits and oppresses, and whom it cannot do without. The Market knows full well that all of capitalism is a colossal Ponzi scheme, and fears the scales falling from our eyes, the awakening awareness that Property is theft, and that we and the planet are the source of creativity and wealth. They know that they need us but we do not need them.

The growing rigidity and repressiveness of their system is a measure of their fear. Their need to colonize every inch of bandwidth, to colonize the human genome and the germinal power of every seed is a measure of both their insatiable greed and their inevitable vulnerability. It is we the people who must realize our power, who must renew our understanding that, as Huey P. Newton said, the people's spirit is greater than the man's technology. We need the audacity to struggle relentlessly by every means necessary, to “use what we got to get what we need.”

Key to this is recognizing that, though a new world is possible, it is not a new U.S. that is necessary. The imperial structure of the US, a prison house of colonized nations and peoples, must be shed as a caterpillar sheds its chrysalis to emerge as a butterfly. Inside the belly of the beast, those irreconcilable contradictions that have been muted by privileges and bribes are inevitably re-asserting themselves.

Remember that privilege is also a method of social control, along with punishment. Privilege exists within every stratum and sector of society, not only in the form of white skin privilege or male privilege. Privileges are bestowed and taken away within prison to control and divide prisoners. Privileges were extended even to certain slaves. Privileges are a key mechanism of dividing the working class and colonized people against ourselves and our own interests in emancipation, liberation, and reconstruction. Never accept as a privilege what should be yours as a human right. Time to break the chains that bind us to our own oppressors and our own destruction, and take flight!

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Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education URGENTLY needs your help!

Postal and printing costs are up. Dozens of new prisoners ask to get free subs every month. Nearly 1500 copies of each edition are sent free to prisoners. Friends of ARA-LA/PART are either in prison, or facing prosecution for anti-fascist political activity. We had to switch to quarterly publication because of a lack of sufficient funds and staffing.

What can you do to keep this paper alive?

We rely entirely on subscriptions and reader donations to publish. We're starting our 24th year of publication, distributing thousands of copies free to prisoners, anti-racists and other concerned people without partisan subsidy, government funds or corporate grants.

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Because of financial constraints, prisoners who want a free subscription must contact us every 6 months.

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Please Note:

TTT is a small project with few resources: **we can't provide books or legal aid, or investigate individuals' innocence.**

Note to our Readers:

This is the first edition of a new, enhanced, on-line version of "Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education."

Because of financial constraints due to printing and mailing costs, the print edition of Turning the Tide is only 8 pages, usually crammed with content and often using small font sizes and very limited graphical content. We apologize for this necessity.

However, those constraints are not applicable to the on-line version and so, beginning with this issue, Volume 24 Number 1, as we enter our 24th year of publication, we are adding pages, content, and graphics to the on-line version of "Turning the Tide." The articles on the Greek, Puerto Rican and Georgia prisoners' strikes are all longer here than in the print edition, as is the PART's Perspective editorial on "The Missing Ingredients." We have also updated some of the calendar items, added to the total number of pages and changed the point size, layout and graphical content, as well as the order, of many of the other pieces.

We expect to continue this process in coming issues, but will try to get the expanded, on-line PDF version of "Turning the Tide" up in a more timely manner in the future.

On another note we will shortly be expanding the website to include prisoner writings and contact information that we cannot include in the print edition of TTT.

We welcome reader input and feedback and are attempting to develop a blog feature on the website or via another mechanism where comments can be posted. Thanks for your continued support and interest!

--the Editor.

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GrassrootsKPFK Wins Seats on LSB Struggle for Community Radio Advances

The GrassrootsKPFK slate of human rights and liberation activists scored a major victory, winning half of the dozen open seats on the Pacifica Radio KPFK-FM Local Station Board (90.7 Los Angeles, 98.7 Santa Barbara). At the first new board meeting on December 1, Aryana Gladney Shakur of the Black Riders Liberation Party, who had come in as first alternate on the GrassrootsKPFK slate in the recent election, took a seat on the LSB to fill a vacancy, along with new members Brenda Medina of MEChA, Michael Novick of ARA-LA/PART, Lydia Brazon of Humanitarian Law Project, and Chuck Anderson of OC Green Party, and staff representatives Omar Burdett and Jim Lafferty, all part of the GrassrootsKPFK slate. Lawrence Reyes of the Puerto Rican Alliance is now in the first alternate position in case of additional (likely) vacancies on the 24 member board.

But the struggle for free speech, grassroots community radio continues. Revolutionary-minded and grassroots oriented programming from communities of color and working people, such as Dedon Kamathi's *Freedom Now*, the Black women's show *Some of Us Are Brave*, and the *Labor Review* have been cut in length and moved around the station schedule like pawns on a chessboard, along with much of the Spanish-language programming, including the internationally-broadcast *Informativo Pacifica*. Long-standing Spanish-language news and public affairs shows were shifted from their Saturday slot to accomplish the ghetto-ization of a lot of the Black programming. Meanwhile, the station has started to air programming from Public Radio International (corporate 'public' radio) as well as finding additional air-time for Democratic Party-oriented programmers of European descent, including comedians whose jokes are still focused on George W. Bush. As the station has lost its edge and sense of mission, fundraising from listeners has also dropped. A summer fund-drive that took all of June fell so far short that a second "summer of love" fund drive was needed in August. The same happened with the fall drive. Pitching most of October left the station so short of budgetary goals, that another additional "mini-drive" was required in December.

The *GrassrootsKPFK* members on the local station board, and the entire coalition, are committed to making the station more fiscally-transparent, communicative with and accountable to the community, and dedicated to addressing unmet community needs, providing a voice to the marginalized, ignored and colonized who create the wealth that sustains the station and the society. *GrassrootsKPFK* is planning a late winter teach-in and working conference on urban crisis in Los Angeles, looking at issues of housing, homelessness, gentrification, foreclosures, the privatization of public housing, food and water sovereignty, and environmental justice, in partnership with the grassroots groups struggling on the ground around these issues and building a fight back through methods of direct action, mutual aid and solidarity to overcome the problems. For more information, check www.grassrootskpfk.net, email grassrootskpfk@gmail.com, or call 310-495-0299. Join GrassrootsKPFK. Let KPFK managers know your thoughts.

Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education

TURNING THE TIDE

**A True Revolutionary is Guided by
Great Feelings of Love!**



Volume 24 Number 1/ Jan-Mar. 2011 *ISSN 1082-6491

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PO Box 1055 Culver City CA 990232*310-495-0299
www.antiracist.org antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com