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truthout

Annual Report 2015-2016

Mission Statement

Truthout works to spark action by revealing systemic injustice and providing a platform for transformative ideas through in-depth investigative reporting and critical analysis. With a powerful, independent voice, we will spur an evolution in consciousness and inspire the direct action that is necessary to save the planet and humanity.

Our Organization

Truthout is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing independent news and commentary on a daily basis. In order to remain free of bias and adhere to high editorial standards, we accept no advertising or commercial backing. Instead, we depend on our readers to support our work.

Our Values

In organizational structure and practice, Truthout walks its talk. Since we do not accept advertising, we're able to provide a growing, thriving alternative to mainstream, corporate news organizations. We are committed to integrity, transparency and accountability in our workplace and editorial practices, valuing truth over the mythical construct of balance. We empower highly trained investigative journalists and analysts, giving voice to the principles of old-fashioned muckraking in a technologically advanced environment. We intend to inform policy, inspire reform and spur direct action, enabling a true revolution in political consciousness.

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"Truthout is where I go to get the unvarnished version of the news. Straight no chaser, not sugar coated or spun toward this political party or that. News the way it's meant to be, honest, tough and reliable."

Mark Ruffalo | Actor, producer,
director and activist

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief and Publisher

The 12 months covered in this annual report have been marked by far more than a year's worth of violence, oppression and chaos. Openly racist and xenophobic far-right movements have gained ground in both Europe and the United States. The impacts of man-made climate disruption are now not just easily observable but have become an often terrifying part of everyday life. And the US continues to show a callous disregard for human life, whether it's police shootings at home or airstrikes abroad.

Election years always pose a particular set of challenges for those few truly independent media outlets. That's been especially true this year. How do you describe what is specifically dangerous about Donald Trump without letting the GOP and American history off the hook? How do you ensure that Hillary Clinton's policies are covered thoroughly and honestly? How do you make sure third-party candidates like Jill Stein are given their fair share of space? And how do you provide accurate and consistent coverage of the many down-ballot races slipping below the radar?

Truthout has been unsparing in our critical analysis of the Democratic and Republican nominees. Since before the first primary ballot was cast, we have known that whatever the result of the 2016 presidential election, there will be injustices and bad policies that need exposing, and people's movements that need uplifting. We've made sure to provide coverage of all the issues that don't stop mattering just because an election campaign is underway. Here are just a few of them.

For years, reporting on the racism and injustice of prisons and policing in the US was lonely work. Today's media and political landscape is very different. The question has become not "should we reform the police and prison system?" but "how can we ensure that reforms make things better, not worse?"

The reporting we've published has addressed the criminal legal system's devastating impact on families, the overlaps with the immigration detention system, and the limits and side effects of reforms that involve confinement, surveillance, or family separation.

We've also continued to provide a platform for the organizers and thinkers who are working to dismantle these unjust systems. A milestone in our coverage of these issues took place this year with the publication of Truthout's first-ever print anthology, *Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect? Police Violence and Resistance in the United States* (Haymarket Books).

The Movement for Black Lives is now a national phenomenon that has provided thorough analysis of not just prisons and policing, but racialized economic and social inequality throughout the US and beyond. Truthout has published reporting from the front lines of vigils and direct actions, and we have provided a platform for debates within the movement: It was in a Truthout op-ed that Aislinn Pulley of Black Lives Matter Chicago explained why she turned down the offer to meet with President Obama at the White House.

We also define racial justice more broadly than most. Our monthly climate dispatches and regular investigative reports are chronicling both the degradation of our environment and the ways in which economically disadvantaged and socially marginalized communities are increasingly impacted by pollution and resource extraction.

The scale of the climate crisis we face is yet another factor that makes it clear: Truly independent journalism has never been more needed. We see a real scarcity of mainstream attention to crucial political topics, including economic justice, militarism and war, education, reproductive justice, health care and food justice. Truthout covers these topics with both investigative reporting and trenchant commentary, always working not only to interrogate current injustices, but also to spotlight movements for transformation and to give voice to visionaries who are imagining a more equitable future.

This has been a challenging year for independent and online news media. Journalism has been under sustained economic assault for decades, with newspapers continuing to shutter offices and be bought out by conglomerates. The past twelve months have shown the vulnerability of even the so-called “new” media, as websites have either laid off large numbers of staff or closed down entirely. Many online publications who



Maya Schenwar and Joe Macaré at a protest event in Chicago.

pinned their financial hopes to advertising have discovered that it is not, in fact, a sustainable source of revenue. It turns out that chasing traffic with outrageous headlines and insubstantial stories isn't just bad journalism, it's not even good business practice.

So we're prouder than ever that Truthout remains unique in our values and our funding model. September 2016 marked 15 years since Truthout first went online. In that time, our world has changed greatly and so have we. But some things remain constant. We still refuse all advertising. We still value justice, compassion, truth and integrity above all else. And we are still supported by our community of readers and supporters. Thank you all for making the contents of this report possible -- and here's to the next 15 years!

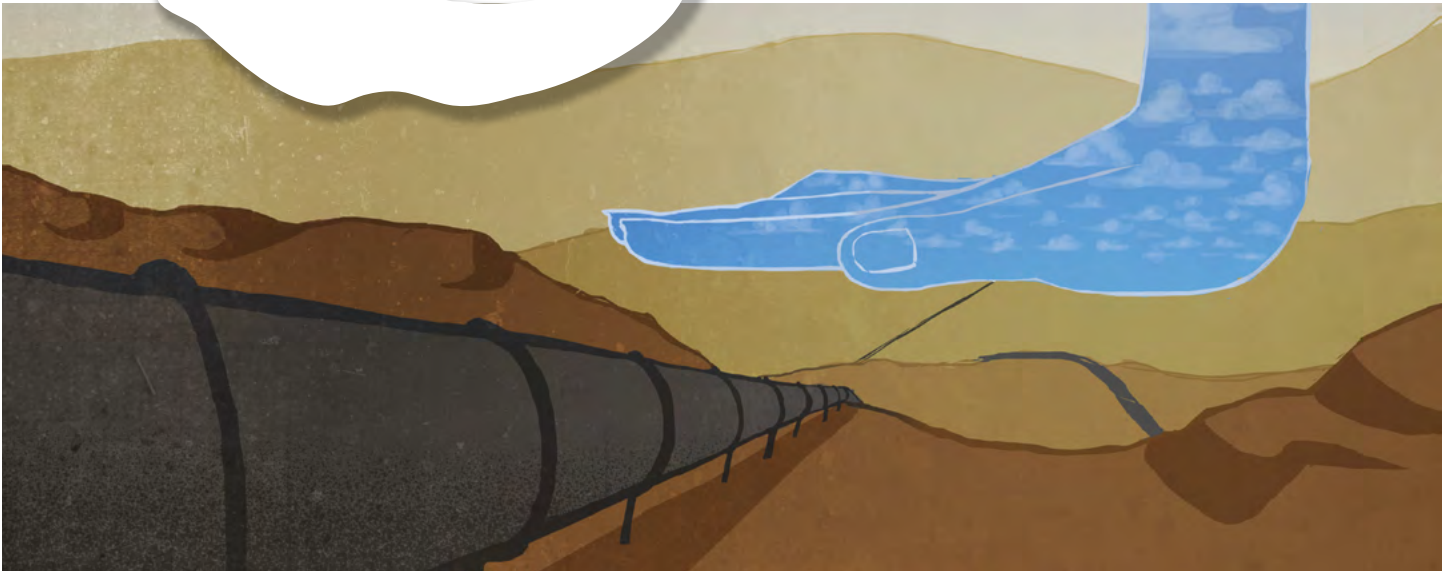
Maya & Joe

Maya Schenwar & Joe Macaré
Editor-in-Chief & Publisher

Editorial Highlights

Truthout’s editorial approach goes against the grain of recent trends that have weakened the media’s integrity and credibility. We favor accountability over sensationalism and substance over “clickbait.” Our reporting has never overlooked inconvenient truths, and our analysis neither claims easy victories nor scaremongers about the threats faced by society. Instead, we publish detailed examinations of existing systemic problems and potential systemic solutions.

Truthout’s staff reporters and contributing writers have been hard at work all year, and we’ve selected a small number of their original stories to highlight on the following pages. We invite you to see for yourself just how transformative independent journalism can be.



Our World: Environment and Food Justice

- Truthout spent much of the year shedding light on a wide variety of environmental issues across the nation, including the impacts of offshore [oil and gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico](#). Our staff reporter Mike Ludwig closely tracked this developing story as organizers and environmentalists worked to [end to fossil fuel leasing on public lands](#) and waters.
- On the other side of the country, award-winning Truthout staff reporter Dahr Jamail wrote a series of reports on the [US Navy's plans to fly fighter jets with electromagnetic weapons](#) over pristine habitats in the Pacific Northwest as part of its training exercises and war games. The reports revealed that the military brazenly attempted to [circumvent environmental regulations](#) and to ignore public concerns over the impacts that the resulting noise and electromagnetic pollution could have on human and environmental health. Truthout also revealed the Navy's plans for [clandestine "simulated" invasions](#) of residential neighborhoods and public coastlines.
- As world leaders prepared to haggle over the future of the planet at the COP21 climate summit in Paris, Dahr Jamail was busy producing monthly [Climate Disruption Dispatches](#) on the hard science behind climate change, a phenomenon that "continues to outstrip our ability to model worst-case scenarios, as it is happening much faster than was ever anticipated." Jamail chronicled the very real harm that climate change is wreaking on the world, from cold snaps, [wildfires, droughts and floods](#) to [animal die-offs](#), and from the growing numbers of [climate refugees](#) to an ever-more-alarming scientific consensus on the future of the planet.
- Educator, author and activist Chris Williams spent a year as Truthout's writer-in-residence, tackling the intersections of capitalism, environmental degradation and colonialism. His pieces on [Indigenous resistance efforts](#) and climate justice campaigns around the world provided a crucial [multi-issue analysis](#) of the wrong turns humanity has taken and what must be done to right them.
- As part of the national, ongoing conversation about health and wellness, Jeff Ritterman covered the dangerously [incorrect federal nutritional guidelines](#) -- guidelines that continue to contribute to the diabetes epidemic in the United States. Brian Moench highlighted the children suffering [irreversible brain damage](#) caused by lead poisoning in Flint, Michigan, a direct result of corruption and anti-regulation at the hands of the officials who were tasked with keeping their communities safe. William Rivers Pitt also took a hard look at Flint through a historical lens, tying the [modern health and environmental challenges](#) back to their roots in racism, poverty and the destruction of union jobs.

Elections: Beyond the Horserace

- The 2016 US presidential election will have a huge impact on the future of the country and the world, but most US presidential candidates hardly addressed the major issues confronting humanity. In an [exclusive interview](#) with Truthout, world-renowned scholar Noam Chomsky warned that if neoliberalism maintains its foothold as the supreme politico-economic doctrine, the rich will only get richer and the US will be ripe for political authoritarianism. Chomsky asserts that people's energies "should be directed substantially toward developing a popular movement that will not fade away after the election." Our series of interviews with Chomsky over the course of the year delved into the serious structural issues that such a popular movement must address, including climate change, the [impacts of capitalism](#) and the degradation of the educational system.
- One notable gap in most mainstream coverage was the work of third-party candidates. Truthout staff reporters Mike Ludwig and Candice Bernd reported on how



these candidates [fought for votes](#) and media coverage. (For example, Bernd's [exclusive interview with Jill Stein](#) boosted the candidate's profile early in the campaign season, elevating discussions of the issues Stein was bringing to the fore.) Meanwhile, [William Rivers Pitt](#) chronicled the story of the election and its influencers throughout the entire campaign season, providing much-needed critical perspectives and commentary.

- The integrity of the democratic process has been at the forefront of discussion throughout election season. Victoria Collier and Ben Ptashnik reported on



the question of [whether election rigging took place](#) in the 2016 Democratic primaries, and on the secret computerized voting systems that are in the hands of partisans. According to cyber-security experts, the people behind these systems have distorted election results in the past, which begs the question: Can an election ever be truly democratic?

- Throughout the election cycle, a billion-dollar industry of corporate mass media centered its coverage on frivolous questions, often failing to pin down the dangerous xenophobia and sensationalism fueling the right's attempt at the presidency. Commentaries from Mark Karlin, editor of Truthout's BuzzFlash section, exposed Donald Trump's demagogic bluster and challenged the legacy of right-wing corporate propaganda that espouses the idea that businesses have the best interest of the consumer at heart.

- Truthout staff reporter and editor Candice Bernd revealed how, although a federal appeals court had upheld a ban on government contractors contributing to federal election campaigns, those same contractors were still [contributing anonymously](#) to "dark money" nonprofit groups. Such groups were expected to increase political spending in the 2016 race, despite IRS rules that should have reigned in their ability to influence elections.





- Across the country, movements for affordable health care and accessible mental health care gained steam. Colorado citizens put single-payer health care up to a vote on a 2016 statewide ballot referendum. Michael Corcoran reported on [the story behind the historic vote](#) which, if approved, would amend Colorado's

constitution to create a statewide, publicly financed, universal health system for the first time in US history. Meanwhile Oryx Cohen investigated a promising mental health reform bill that, upon closer inspection, actually [catered directly to pharmaceutical companies](#).

Policing, Prisons and Resistance

- Truthout continued to publish groundbreaking work on the issues surrounding solitary confinement, in particular showing how women and LGBTQ prisoners often remain overlooked. Investigative reporter Victoria Law detailed the ways in which, although there is increasing recognition in the mental health field and even within various state prison systems of solitary's harmful effects, [solitary confinement is still used every day](#) to arbitrarily humiliate, degrade and dehumanize people.

Law also investigated the [impacts of isolation on adolescents](#) in the juvenile detention system and the steps some states have taken to prohibit placing youth in solitary for punitive reasons.

- As politicians began to herald the “end” of the war on drugs, Truthout continued to cover the drug war's fallout, including the

ongoing imprisonment of hundreds of thousands of people for drug offenses in the US. Meanwhile, as alarmist coverage of the opiate crisis took center stage, Mike Ludwig pointed out how many state and local governments still [prohibit essential treatments](#) and harm-reduction measures. For example, Ludwig reported on the devastating effects of a federal funding ban on needle exchanges while an [HIV outbreak ripped through a small town](#) in Indiana.





Protesters shut down Chicago's Lake Shore Drive on April 30, 2016, to demand the firing of police officer Dante Servin (for the shooting of Rekia Boyd) and the restoration of funding to Chicago State University. (Photo: Kelly Hayes)

- The conversation around race, prison and criminal justice policies rarely turns to the children and families suffering alongside their incarcerated loved ones. Truthout reported on visiting policies that violate basic protocols for maintaining family connections and on practices that result in prisoners being shipped [hundreds of miles](#) from home. We also examined how marginalized prisoners are left especially vulnerable to being cut off from their families. Victoria Law wrote an in-depth investigative report on mothers serving [extraordinarily long prison sentences](#) for nonviolent

offenses. Her article was a major contributing factor to the commutation and release of one of the mothers featured in the piece, Angie Jenkins.

- In a series of more than a dozen original articles, Truthout investigated the multiple ways in which phone companies, “video-visit” service providers and other private companies are taking advantage of their “captive market” to [make millions](#) off families struggling to keep in touch. Brian Dolinar brought these issues to the

forefront of the public’s attention, contributing to a major victory when the Federal Communications Commission [voted in October 2015 to cap the rates for phone calls](#) from prisons and jails after years of profiteering by telecommunications companies.

- As the debate about race, police brutality and justice played out on the national stage, Black Lives Matter Chicago cofounder Aislinn Pulley was invited to attend a White House event addressing these challenges. Pulley publicly declined President Obama, in a plea for



transparency and accountability. She [wrote an essay for Truthout](#) on her rationale for refusing the president's invitation -- a piece that was widely shared and discussed, shining a national spotlight on the president's reluctance to make meaningful changes.

- With no national standards for screening police applicants, specialized psychologists may rely on tests that are not focused on predicting aggression, and incumbent officers' personality profiles are not typically re-evaluated post-hire. Truthout reporter Candice Bernd investigated the [gaping holes in police departments' psychological screening](#), as well as how the mental and emotional consequences of policing leave entire communities with deep psychological trauma.
- Encounters between Native Americans and the US criminal legal system have been largely omitted from the critical narrative surrounding mass incarceration. James Kilgore dove into the [colonial relationship between the US state and Native peoples](#), past and present. His heavily researched piece now provides a resource for those looking to understand how Indigenous persecution



Protesters block traffic in response to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids and deportations, on February 15, 2016, in Chicago. (Photo: Tom Callahan)

plays into the logic of mass incarceration.

- Truthout continued to report closely on persisting injustices at the Guantánamo Bay prison. Adam Hudson covered how, while the Obama administration has increased the pace of [releasing Guantánamo detainees](#), the US policy of [indefinite detention remains](#), even after the Senate's release of the [CIA torture program report](#) in December 2014 revealed the extent of the abuse prisoners suffered at the hands of the CIA.



Communities in Peril: Housing, Education and Labor

- Truthout has faithfully covered the issues facing young people today, particularly poor young people of color. Henry A. Giroux analyzed the [crush of state violence](#) and material burdens resulting from a neoliberal system that sees young people as disposable consumers. Drawing on his own youth, Giroux also showed that a different future is possible: Working-class young people are “flipping the script” -- or recognizing how ruling-class-defined weaknesses are actually strengths -- in order to rewrite themselves into mass social movements and create real economic and political change. Giroux also dove into the [critical role of pedagogy](#), which can be used to illuminate the relationships among knowledge, authority and power.



- With comprehensive immigration reform at a standstill, journalist Erika L. Sánchez reported on the growing movement of undocumented students fighting for access to higher education and dismantling the “good” versus “bad” immigrant narrative. Sánchez wrote of how activists have been [mobilizing across the country](#), continuing to concentrate their efforts on passing state legislation that would make higher education more attainable, while demanding rights for all undocumented people in the United States.
- Grassroots movements in the US have come alive with organizing campaigns to reverse labor inequities and abuses, and the rise of worker cooperatives has been one of the most hopeful developments in this arena. Writer Brian Van Slyke documented how, by developing genuine partnerships with unions and other worker organizations, the cooperative movement has been [gaining valuable allies](#). Van Slyke’s work reveals that long after the traditional bosses are gone, workers will be able to thrive and innovate.
- Much has been written about gentrification in major cities like New York and [San Francisco](#), but Truthout’s Adam Hudson also reported from the frontlines in Richmond, California, a historically working-class, Black community that has been successful in pushing for police reforms and holding a massive Chevron plant [accountable for environmental abuses](#). Now the community faces new challenges: rising property values and the spillover of gentrification from the Bay Area. The story revealed that gentrification is [not a “big city” phenomenon](#), but instead is a broader capitalist phenomenon. Other Truthout stories over the past year have shown how gentrification has [grown out of colonialism](#) and the displacement of Indigenous people, and is also deeply rooted in “free market” principles that privilege the very few over the many.

Privatization, Trade and Corporate Plunder

- Truthout's role in amplifying the voices of local communities organizing to defend their environment -- and drawing national attention to these issues -- has never been more relevant. In Texas, Candice Bernd chronicled the progression of fracking across the state and the resistance that set an example for the rest of the country to follow. Bernd documented the steps taken by activists in Denton, Texas to [ban hydraulic fracturing within city limits](#), and the subsequent push by the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) for the passage of HB-40, which rendered the ban unenforceable, as part of a wider ALEC-backed strategy to prevent more than 300 other Texas cities from banning or regulating fracking.
- Foreshadowing the struggle at Standing Rock, the battle for clean water raged on across the country as communities organized to save their water sources from contamination by fracking or corporate thievery. While nearly 40 percent of the United States was experiencing drought, residents in a small town in Pennsylvania were facing down an uncertain future. Truthout covered the story of how the area's most critical natural resource -- water -- was being extracted to the tune of millions in profits by corporate giant Nestlé. Alexis Bonogofsky reported on the efforts of one town to [resist corporate encroachment](#) and keep Nestlé out of their community. The story was widely shared, including among many advocacy groups. Two months after the story ran, we received the good news:



[Nestlé was abandoning its plans](#). The community had won, and their water was protected.

- We also turned our attention to the dangerous consolidation of the pharmaceutical industry, with Steve Hendricks reporting on the [naked price gouging of generic prescriptions](#) and how it affected the lives of people who depend on those drugs. Meanwhile, Mike Ludwig exposed the [hundreds of millions of dollars spent on lobbying](#) and campaign donations every year by the pharmaceutical industry, and how the massive spending turned recent proposals to regulate drug prices into political long shots, despite growing consumer outrage.

Rights and Freedoms: Immigration, LGBTQ, Reproductive Rights

- To understand the roots of ongoing mass migrations, one has to examine the global disasters that are consistently hurting those who are economically disadvantaged. Truthout contributor William C. Anderson explained how, while the West claims to address the plight of refugees, it simultaneously deploys policies that [exacerbate climate change and wars](#), destabilizing regions already facing turmoil. Take Arnie Alpert's chilling analysis of how war serves to [fuel arms industry profits](#), which then boost the industry's capacity to influence public policy and generate even more sales. Bottom line? The refugee crisis is good for business, if your business is war.

- Meanwhile, Truthout continued to be one of the only outlets covering the inextricable connection between immigration and for-profit incarceration on US soil. Because we are keenly aware that incarceration extends far beyond prison walls, Truthout has thoroughly examined the machinations of the immigrant detention system and the varied ways in which it impacts children and families. Candice Bernd took on immigrant detention centers where families with children are being [jailed for months](#) within for-profit

“processing centers,” bringing to light the abuses -- and the [nonviolent resistance efforts](#) of those incarcerated -- at a [private detention center](#) in a small town in Texas.

- Bernd also covered the politics of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement deportation raids, which sweep up families and unaccompanied children who have made the perilous journey to the United States seeking refuge from skyrocketing rates of murder, rape and gang violence gripping El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Bernd meticulously examined the [presidential candidates' platforms](#), noting that even though the Democratic candidates and the Green Party's Jill Stein all called for an end to the Obama administration's deportation raids on Central American immigrants, not all candidates supported extending temporary protective status to asylum seekers.

- The 2015 US Supreme Court ruling that legalized gay marriage was a cultural and legal landmark, but it was not the end of the battle for equal rights. Toshio Meronek provided crucial [historical and cultural context](#) for the movement to free Chelsea

“As a writer, nothing feels worse than giving a great piece to someone paying you crumbs. But Truthout always compensates me well compared to places with much bigger budgets.”

William Anderson
Truthout contributing writer

Manning from federal prison, the silencing of transgender voices and the criminalization of HIV. In response to the wave of “[bathroom bills](#)” aimed at demonizing trans people -- particularly trans women -- and barring them from public life, Truthout provided a platform to the people most affected, like Amanda Armstrong and Eric A. Stanley, to explain the [bigotry behind this legislation](#) and its connections to broader context of oppression based on race, gender and class.

- It was also a big year for the sex worker rights movement. After weeks of fierce public debate, Amnesty International approved a policy calling on all governments to decriminalize the buying and selling of sexual services in order to protect sex workers from violence and advance their human rights. Truthout was digging deep into the issue long before [rights for sex workers](#) became a mainstream media conversation. In a months-long investigation, Truthout’s Mike Ludwig exposed how sensational efforts by law enforcement and the anti-trafficking industry to “rescue” people in the sex trade can harm and exploit the same individuals they are supposed to be “saving.”



- Truthout continued to be a source of strong coverage on health and reproductive rights. Katie Klabusich wrote a series of deeply informative articles for Truthout, covering two [big legislative wins](#) despite the passage of 47 state anti-abortion laws and the attacks on Planned Parenthood and independent abortion providers which ran the gamut from shootings to arson to seemingly [perpetual congressional hearings](#).



War, Imperialism and International Struggle

- The “war on terror” has become a full-blown global war campaign, but the actual roots of the rise and spread of organizations such as ISIS remain conveniently ignored. In a series of exclusive interviews by C.J. Polychroniou, world-renowned critic of US foreign policy Noam Chomsky offered his insight about the role of the United States, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Russia and Syria in the “war on terror,” and how the US poses a [global threat to peace](#).
- Truthout cast a critical eye on US involvement in violence overseas, countering the mainstream media narratives about Iran, Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Investigative reporter Gareth Porter illuminated the [profitable political connections](#) between the United States and Saudi Arabia, dismantled the allegation that [Iran had been arming Yemen](#) in a proxy war against Saudi Arabia, and explored the Obama administration’s alliance with [Sunni nations that aided al-Qaeda-affiliated groups](#) in Syria.
- Since 2014, law professor and renowned social critic Marjorie Cohn has been writing the [Human Rights and Global Wrongs](#) column for Truthout, an exploration of the intersections and contradictions between human rights and US foreign policy. Over the past year, her column has featured topics ranging from the implications of the death of Antonin Scalia to the [legacy of the Vietnam War](#), and from the [boycott, divestment and sanctions movement](#) to [US drone strikes](#) and targeted killings.
- From Brazil, which is in the midst of its worst recession in decades, Truthout contributors Renata Bessi and Santiago Navarro F. reported on the [corporate-backed assassinations](#) of Indigenous people in an effort to make way for new investment projects. Investment capital continued to pose numerous challenges to both the land and the democratic process in Brazil, and Bessi and Navarro F. followed the money to a project to [build a dozen nuclear plants](#) by 2050 despite a global trend toward renewable energy.
- The American corporate media persisted in presenting military options as the only possible response to the threat of ISIS. Political analyst and activist Kate Gould suggested some alternative strategies, making a convincing case that violence is not the answer to systemic violence and extremism cannot be bombed out of existence. Since ISIS was, in fact, bombed *into* existence, Gould argued that the most promising way to handle the extremist group is to peel off its [overlapping layers of recruits, weapons and financial support](#). Her piece made waves in policy



and activist circles, presenting a set of clear paths forward for which to advocate.

- Truthout also continued to investigate US imperialism overseas. Although it receives scant coverage in US media, the history of noise, crowding, toxic pollution, environmental harm, crime, sexual violence and serious military accidents in Okinawa, Japan has been well-documented. Truthout remains one of the only media outlets covering this situation, reporting on Okinawa's fierce, but peaceful, struggle. Jon Letman covered how the tiny, peace-loving island, which hosts 75 percent of US military bases in Japan, finally put its foot down on construction of [yet another base](#), with 35,000 turning out to protest the plan.
- Laura Weiss reported for Truthout on the mass [detention and deportation](#) of residents with Haitian roots from the Dominican Republic. The United States funds the Dominican military, provides millions of dollars in development and humanitarian aid, and US Border Patrol agents protect the Haitian-Dominican border. Yet in the face of the Dominican Republic's human rights violations against Haiti, the US has remained largely silent.



One of more than 1,500 Indigenous protesters who turned out to protest the government's corporate development projects, which have led to increasing violence against Indigenous communities.

(Photo: Santiago Navarro F.)

- On US soil, Candice Bernd covered the unprecedented size and scope of an eight-week, [inter-agency warfare training exercise](#) dubbed Jade Helm 15, which took place in Texas and seven other states during the summer of 2015. Eschewing the preponderance of conspiracy theories around the exercise, Bernd showed how Jade Helm 15 was designed to test military personnel in an emerging Special Forces doctrine known as the "human domain." While conservative propagandists decried Jade Helm as a "federal takeover," Bernd exposed it for what it really was: a significant instance of domestic military expansion.



BuzzFlash

- In 2016, [BuzzFlash](#) celebrates six years of being part of the Truthout family. During this time, Buzzflash has provided links every single day to the latest and best news published elsewhere, along with timely commentaries and videos. Mark Karlin, the managing editor of BuzzFlash, has also written columns on topics ranging from the overtly racist appeal of Donald Trump to the corporate media’s shift towards covering politics as entertainment with little attention paid to pressing public policy issues.
- Other columns by longstanding and new writers for BuzzFlash attacked the intractable US war machine that has resulted in so much destructive blowback. Bob Koehler, for example, regularly draws parallels on how US violence abroad and at home is intricately entangled to create an extended national culture of violence. And Jane Stillwater has written that, lest we forget, while nuclear weapons no longer appear as a mass media news concern, the US and other nations are still using them as a “deterrent,” which could become activated at any time.

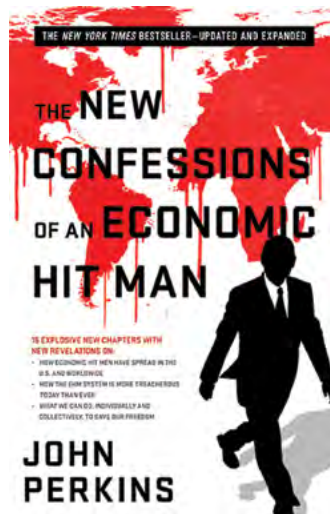


Progressive Picks

We may run a website, but we know that there’s a unique joy to holding a new book in your hands.

Our love of books, particularly from small publishers and authors who share bold ideas, is what drives Truthout’s [Progressive Picks](#) program. Over the years, we’ve shared hundreds of books with our readers, each personally selected by the Truthout staff. Through this program, readers can support both independent journalism and a wider community of independent and progressive book publishers.

The books we offer explore how a wide range of activists, organizers, and radical thinkers have transformed the way we approach injustice in the modern world. Reader



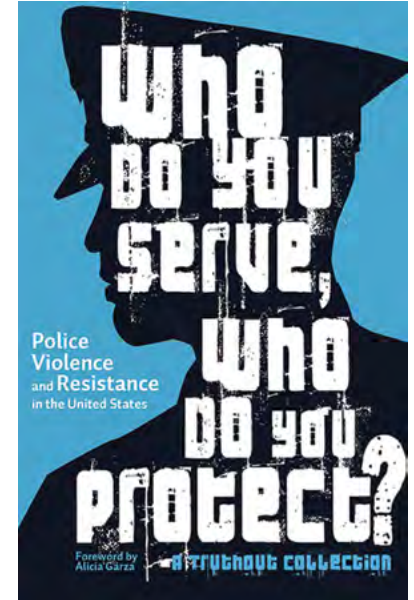
favorites have included Kate Evans and her evocative art in *Red Rosa*, John Perkins with the revelatory *New Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* and other writers who illuminate how truth can prevail over corruption and secrecy.

For several years, Truthout has invested in Black journalists and other journalists of color writing about racial inequality, the police, prisons and the broader criminal legal system. As a result of the strength of our coverage of these issues, in 2016 Haymarket Books published an anthology of reporting and analysis curated and edited by Truthout, entitled *Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect? Police Violence and Resistance in the United States*. The book serves as both a significant contribution to a rich, ongoing relationship with our readers and also a means by which to increase our exposure to new audiences.

This collection (the first Truthout print book and the first anthology in a proposed collaborative series

with Haymarket Books) explores police violence against Black, Brown, Indigenous and other marginalized communities, as well as miscarriages of justice, failures of token accountability and reform measures, and the historical and global context of policing in the United

States. Contributors include William C. Anderson, Aaron Cantú, Thandi Chimurenga, Ejeris Dixon, Rachel Herzing, Adam Hudson, Victoria Law, Mike Ludwig, Sarah Macaraeg, Andrea Ritchie and Roberto Rodriguez, with a foreword by Alicia Garza, co-founder of Black Lives Matter.



“An extraordinary collection of writings by activists living and working at the epicenter of police violence and the anti-Blackness and structural racism so foundational to US systems of policing. *Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect?* relocates justice in accountable social, economic, and cultural relationships, pointing the way toward foundational transformation rather than cosmetic reform.”

Kay Whitlock | Co-author of *Considering Hate and Queer (In)Justice*

Who Reads Truthout?

Relatively small size notwithstanding, Truthout has remarkable reach and influence that allows for the dissemination of critical thought and innovative ideas at a level that is historically unprecedented. From May 2015 to April 2016 inclusive Truthout.org received over 27 million pageviews from almost 11 million readers.

Truthout's readers span a range of ages. For example, according to a reader survey, the largest age group that subscribes to [our newsletter](#) consists of readers aged 65 or over (61 percent), while the largest groups of our Facebook fans are aged 25-34 (24 percent) and 35-44 (20 percent). The same survey revealed that our readers also have a range of political views, encompassing those who identify as progressives, liberals, socialists, feminists, Democrats, Green Party voters, anarchists, radicals, moderates, revolutionaries and reformers -- to name just a few terms with which survey respondents chose to identify.

More and more people get their news via social media, and Truthout's reach continues to grow on these channels. The audience for our [Facebook page](#) grew from just over 595,000 in April 2015 to more 725,000 by the end of June 2016. At the time of writing, Truthout

has almost 740,000 Facebook fans and over 141,000 followers [on Twitter](#), while BuzzFlash has over 18,000 [Facebook](#) fans and almost 32,000 [Twitter](#) followers.

Facebook accounts for 14 percent of all visitors to Truthout and is our largest single source of referrals: 48 percent of readers who come to Truthout via another site come via Facebook. More and more people are reading Truthout on their phones. A year ago, twice as many readers who came via Facebook used a browser rather than a cellphone or other mobile device: now those proportions have been reversed.

We recognize, too, that social media is not just a means for getting a story out to readers -- it's also a place where ongoing conversations happen, conversations which can be informed and shaped by the information we provide. On social media, Truthout stories have been shared by journalists and novelists, lawyers and legislators, artists and musicians, philosophers and physicians, and activists and actors including Mark Ruffalo, John Cusack, Susan Sarandon, Shaleine Woodley and Lucy Lawless. They have been shared by organizers involved in struggles for economic justice, for climate justice, for Black and Native lives, for trans and immigrant rights, and more.

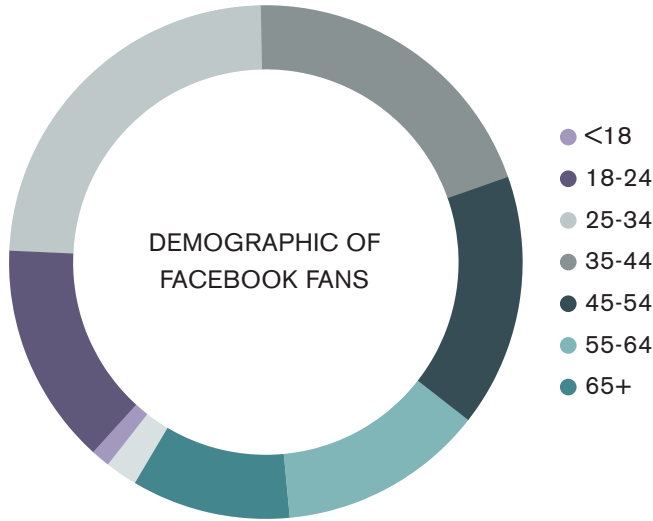


27,000,000

PAGEVIEWS ON TRUTHOUT.ORG

11,000,000

VISITORS TO TRUTHOUT.ORG

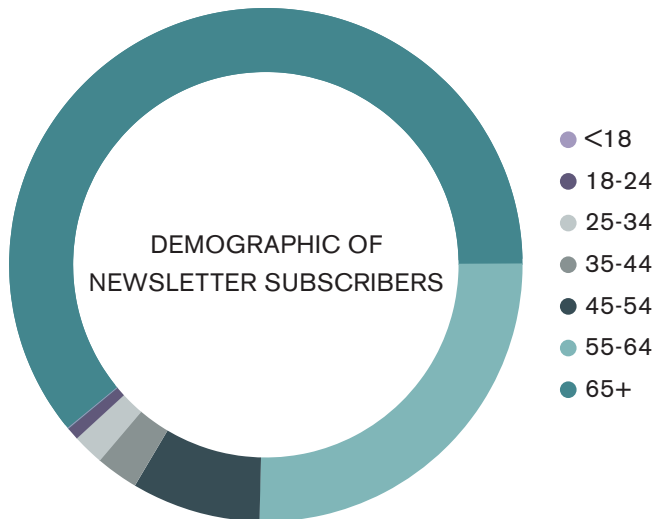


141,000

FOLLOW @TRUTHOUT ON TWITTER

725,000

FANS OF TRUTHOUT ON FACEBOOK



Cities with the most Truthout readers:

1. New York
2. Los Angeles
3. Chicago
4. San Francisco
5. Seattle
6. Washington, D.C.
7. Portland
8. Houston
9. London, England
10. Denver

What Makes Truthout Different?

Truthout walks the walk where other news organizations, even independent or progressive media outlets, only talk the talk. Our definition of independence is rigorous and grounded in principles of transparency and accountability. This is even more noticeable and even more important in an election year. Truthout does not endorse candidates and we don't take money from campaigns to send out "sponsored" emails raising money on their behalf.

In fact we continue to take no advertising at all. This principle ensures that our stories aren't vetted by corporate sponsors. It also makes reading our website a

more pleasant experience for many readers -- no auto-playing pop-up video ads here!

The vast majority of our budget continues to come from [donations from individual readers](#), and the majority of those donations are small. We're incredibly grateful that our readers give at whatever level they can, whether it's \$5 or \$5,000. Those foundations and large donors who do contribute to Truthout do so not in spite of the fact that we scrupulously maintain our editorial independence (even when it comes to our largest contributors), but because of that integrity.

We are scrupulous in both our editorial practices and our business practices. In a time of financial challenges, we have held fast to a commitment not to make layoffs for economic reasons, and to continue offering permanent employment opportunities to former fellows and interns whenever possible.

By keeping our overhead costs down, yet simultaneously paying our staff, fellows, interns and contributors fairly, we are paving the way for the future of successful, sustainable media organizations. We are tenacious and resolute in our mission to bring powerful reporting and



Maya Schenwar and Mark Karlin collaborate on the Progressive Picks program.



Anna Sutton, Joe Macaré and Maya Schenwar hard at work at the Uptown People's Law Center in Chicago.



Maya Schenwar, Lauren Walker, Alana Yu-lan Price, Joe Macaré and Mark Karlin in Chicago.

analysis to a wide audience, and we take bold steps forward each year in terms of finding and amplifying new voices.

The past couple of years have seen an increasing number of online media outlets unionizing -- a development that we welcome, even though news coverage of this trend has not always recognized that Truthout



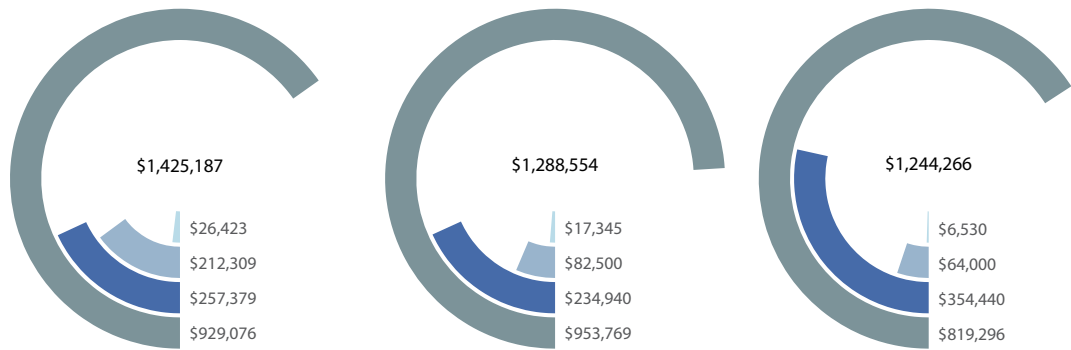
was the first online-only publication to unionize, back in 2009. We're proud to have set the precedent when our staff became part of The NewsGuild-CWA, and in the past year, we set another precedent: Truthout staff and management successfully negotiated a second union contract, becoming the first online news publication to do so.



Truthout's Financial Statements

Revenue

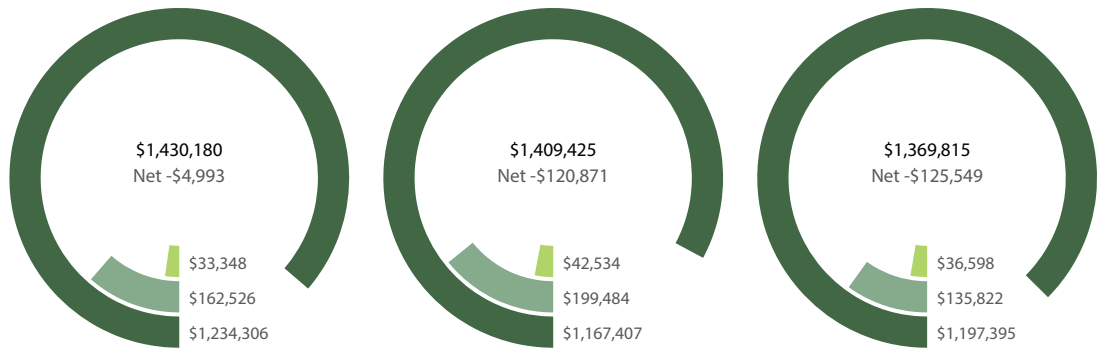
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Grants	\$257,379	\$234,940	\$354,440
Donations	\$929,076	\$953,769	\$819,296
Major Donations (\$1000 or greater)	\$212,309	\$82,500	\$64,000
Interest, Royalties & Collaborations	\$26,423	\$17,345	\$6,530
Total Income	\$1,425,187	\$1,288,554	\$1,244,266



● Donations
 ● Grants
 ● Donations \$1000+
 ● Interest, Royalties & Collaborations

Expenses

	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Program & Staff Expenses	\$1,234,306	\$1,167,407	\$1,197,395
Fundraising Expenses	\$33,348	\$42,534	\$36,598
Administrative Expenses	\$162,526	\$199,484	\$135,822
Total Expenses	\$1,430,180	\$1,409,425	\$1,369,815
Net Income	-\$4,993	-\$120,871	-\$125,549



● Program & Staff Expenses
 ● Administrative Expenses
 ● Fundraising Expenses

Donor Honor Rolls

Thomas Paine Donor Circle (\$10,000+)

Judi Poulson

Thomson von Stein

Nellie Bly Donor Circle (\$1,000 to \$9,999)

Ellen Baker

Martha Fleischman

David Kandel

Richard Smith

Elizabeth Block

Brooke Gray

J.L. Keith

Patricia M. Smith

W. David Ball & Farah Brelvi

William Griffith

Mary Sanger

Genevieve Vaughan

George Cox

Nancy Heyser

Roberta Shinaberry

Leroy Wehrle

Laoni Davis

I.F. Stone Donor Circle (\$500 to \$999)

Gina Angiola

Rachel S. Goldstein

Douglas Humble

Samuel & Elizabeth Smith

William Ayers

Linne Gravestock

& Kristin Bonkemeyer

Nancy Somers

Wayne & Cynthia Bullaughey

(in memory of Peter Stoddard)

John Lamperti

& Wayne Hardy

John Cerny

Marjorie Greville

Rob Lawrence

Lana Touchstone

Randy Ching

Marc Hapke

Julian Orr

Susan Weaver

Alvin Eshe

Bruce Harper

Nell Painter

Howard Wilshire

Rodney Ferris

Jan Harris

Linda Roman

Frank Zindler

Linda Gochfeld

Leonore Herzenberg

Craig Shumaker



Our Foundations

Lannan Foundation
Cloud Mountain Foundation
Craigslist Charitable Fund
Brightwater Fund
Evolve Foundation
The Community Foundation
Steven Leuthold Family Foundation
Freedom of the Press Foundation
Seeds of Justice
The Susan & Ford Schumann Foundation
M&T Weiner Foundation

"I greatly enjoy the articles in Truthout, especially the so often overlooked issues and implications that your various writers bring into focus. Your journal is really valuable in times like the present when the conventional news media are often flooding us with nonsense!

Keep up the good work."

William H. Clamurro
Truthout reader and supporter

Board of Directors

Robert Naiman is policy director at Just Foreign Policy. Naiman writes regularly for Truthout, The Huffington Post and Common Dreams. Naiman has worked as a policy analyst and researcher at the Center for Economic and Policy Research and Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch. He has master's degrees in economics and mathematics from the University of Illinois.

Lewis R. Gordon is professor of philosophy at UCONN-Storrs; writer-in-residence at Birkbeck School of Law; visiting professor of philosophy at the University of the West Indies at Mona, Jamaica; and honorary professor at the Unit of the Humanities at Rhodes University (UHURU), South Africa, where he was also most recently Nelson Mandela visiting professor of political and international studies (2014 and 2015). His most recent books are *What Fanon Said: A Philosophical Introduction to His Life and Thought* (Fordham UP; Wits UP; Hurst, 2015; Swedish translation, TankeKraft förlag, 2016, translations in Portuguese and Mandarin forthcoming), and, with Jane Anna Gordon, Aaron Kamugisha and Neil Roberts, *Journeys in Caribbean Thought: The Paget Henry Reader* (Rowman & Littlefield International, 2016).

Henry A. Giroux is currently the McMaster University Professor for Scholarship in the Public Interest and The Paulo Freire Distinguished Scholar in Critical Pedagogy. His most recent books include *America at War With Itself* (City Lights, 2016), *America's Addiction to Terrorism* (Monthly Review Press, 2016) and, coauthored with Brad Evans, *Disposable Futures: The Seduction of Violence in the Age of Spectacle* (City Lights, 2015).

Maya Schenwar is the editor-in-chief of Truthout, the author of *Locked Down, Locked Out: Why Prison Doesn't Work and How We Can Do Better*, and a co-editor of the anthology *Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect? Police Violence and Resistance in the United States*. She has written for Truthout, The New York Times, The Guardian, The Nation, The New Jersey Star-Ledger and many other publications. She is the recipient of a Society of Professional Journalists Sigma Chi Award, an Independent Publisher Book Award, the Women's Prison Association's Sarah Powell Huntington Leadership Award, and a Lannan Residency Fellowship. Previous to her work at Truthout, Maya was Contributing Editor at Punk Planet magazine.



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Nell Painter

Richard Power

Roberto Rodriguez

Mark Ruffalo

Graham Ryan

Mariesa Ryan

T.M. Scruggs

Leslie Thatcher

Mark Weisbrot

Richard D. Wolff

"I love Truthout
and have read it for years.
I was a professor for 47 years and
would often assign things to my
students, because of the depth
and clarity of the articles."

Judy Dushku
Truthout reader and supporter

Our Team

Our dedicated team works seven days a week, 365 days a year to carry out Truthout's ambitious and uncompromising mission to bring you the best in investigative reporting and news analysis.

These are the editors, reporters, designers, proofers, and all the other people who -- along with our board, our contributing writers and our community -- are crucial to Truthout's success.



Candice Bernd
Editor/Staff Reporter



Samantha Borek
Associate Editor



Merula Furtado
Copy Editor



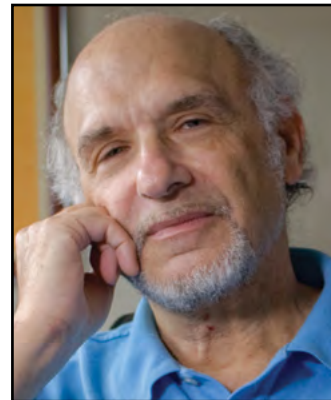
Kendel Gordon
Financial Administrator



Kelly Hayes
Community Engagement Associate



Dahr Jamail
Staff Reporter



Mark Karlin
Managing Editor, BuzzFlash



Mike Ludwig
Staff Reporter



Joe Macaré
Publisher



Cherise Morris
Electronic Publishing Intern



Joseph Peterson
Community Liaison



William Rivers Pitt
Senior Editor and Lead Columnist



Alana Yu-lan Price
Content Relations Editor



Jared Rodriguez
Digital Liaison/Designer/Photo Editor



Maya Schenwar
Editor-In-Chief



Britney Schultz
Editor



Annie Stoddard
Administrative Manager



Anna Sutton
Development Director



Lauren Walker
Designer/Photo Editor

Looking Forward

Truthout will continue to uphold our commitment to radical independence, eschewing advertising dollars and corporate financial influence, while addressing the most serious issues that threaten our country, species and planet, including climate disruption, US militarism and global inequality. Support from our community will continue to be vital for strengthening Truthout's role in providing information the public needs in order to create and maintain a functioning and vibrant democracy.

In the wake of the 2016 election, Truthout is committed to keeping political parties, Congress, and our newly elected president in check. We have faithfully covered the months leading up to the election, exploring alternatives to a two-party system, reporting directly from the primaries, debunking mainstream media myths and offering thoughtful discourse on the issues at hand. Long after the votes are counted, we will continue to hold those in power accountable.

We will not stop fighting to bring attention to those who fight for justice -- especially following an election year such as this. In an effort to strengthen

reporting on the subjects of incarceration, racial injustice and the criminal legal system, Truthout is partnering with a generous foundation to produce a series of stories on the effects of incarceration on children, families and communities. This project is intended to have far-reaching impacts, from individual clemencies to decarceration initiatives, and will contribute significantly to the movement for system-wide policy change.

Next year will also bring the release of our second Truthout book, a collection of interviews with Noam Chomsky, conducted by C.J. Polychroniou. The collection, which will be published by Haymarket Books, will cover a wide range of topics, from foreign policy to capitalism, from the electoral system to climate change, from militarism to the media and more. This book is the second in a series of Truthout anthologies that will be released by Haymarket. The first was this year's *Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect? Police Violence and Resistance in the United States*. Watch for more information about our Chomsky collection in the new year!





Truthout is a proud member of The NewsGuild-CWA.

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