

# Every 36 Hours:

# Extra-Judicial Killings of Black People

by Arlene Eisen and Kali Akuno for *Malcolm X Grassroots Movement*

**A human rights crisis confronts Black people in the US.** Since January 1, 2012, police, security guards and self-appointed vigilantes have murdered at least 120 Black women and men. These killings are not random acts of violence or the work of rogue cops. The use of deadly force against Black people is standard practice in the US, woven into to the fabric of society.

The corporate media have given little attention to these extra-judicial killings. The few mainstream media outlets that mention the epidemic are unwilling to acknowledge the killings are systemic – embedded in institutional racism and national oppression. Nearly all the mainstream media sing the praises of the police and read from the same script that denounces the alleged “thuggery” of the deceased. Sadly, too many people believe the police version of events and the media’s “blame-the-victim” narratives that justify these killings.

We’ve studied these deaths — including false and inconsistent claims by police, and witness reports that contradict them. From this study and peoples’ experience, we reject the corporate media rationalization for the fact that in the first six months of this year, one Black person was executed every 36 hours. This disregard for Black life resulted in the killing of 13-year-old children, fathers taking care of their kids, women driving the wrong cars, and people with mental health or drug problems.

Nowhere is a Black woman or man safe from racial profiling, invasive policing, constant surveillance, and overriding suspicion. All Black people – regardless of education, class, occupation, behavior or dress – are subject to the whims of the police. Invasive policing is only one aspect of the comprehensive containment strategies to exploit Black people and smother resistance. To contain the upsurge of the Black liberation movement of the 1960s and ’70s, to protect the system of white supremacy, the forces of institutional racism have worked through government at every level to destabilize the Black community. Schools, housing, healthcare, other social services and transportation in Black communities have been denied equitable provision and distribution of resources.

The U.S. maintains these injustices with the militarized occupation of Black communities by the police and a web of racist legislation like the “war on drugs”, discriminatory polices like “three strikes” and “mandatory minimum” sentencing. The result is a social system that mandates warehousing millions of Black people and extrajudicial killings where the killers act with impunity and more often than not are rewarded and promoted for murder. Nothing short of the survival of the Black community is at stake when we consider the record.

This update proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that the institutionalized violence of white supremacy is not only alive and well, but is, in fact, intensifying. To complete the picture, we must take into account the extrajudicial killings and other repressive policies directed at other targeted peoples and communities such as Indigenous peoples, Latinos, Arabs, Muslims, and immigrants. These, in conjunction with the oppression of Black people, demonstrate that the U.S. government remains committed to maintaining the system of white supremacy created by the aggressive and illegal European settler-colonies.

This crisis can only be stopped through decisive action. First, the Black community must organize its own self-defense. Second, we must build a broad mass movement capable of forcing the government to enact transformative legislation based on our demands. The fundamental demand must be for a National Plan of Action for Racial Justice to eliminate institutional racism and advance the struggle for self-determination. The Black community itself will determine the specific contents of The Plan, drawing from the foundation of CERD (the Convention to Eliminate all forms of Racial Discrimination) and the DDPA (Durban Declaration and Program of Action).

We call on everyone who believes that decisive action must be taken by Black and other oppressed peoples to confront

and defeat national oppression and white supremacy to join us in developing an independent, mass movement for human rights that builds power in our communities and will have the capacity to force the Federal authorities to implement a comprehensive National Plan of Action for Racial Justice. You can join us immediately by helping us secure 1 million signatures to our petition (see <http://mxgm.org/trayvon-martin-is-all-of-us/>), organizing Copwatch and People’s Self-Defense campaigns, fighting for elected Police Control Boards, the demilitarization of our communities, and the reinvestment of the military and security budget into community reinvestment and social programs among other suggestions provided in our “Local Struggles” paper (see <http://mxgm.org/no-more-trayvons-campaign/>). We also encourage communities to organize their own grassroots crisis intervention, domestic violence prevention/control and mediation teams so families in crisis do not become so desperate for help that they compound their problems by calling 9-1-1 and inviting the police into their homes.

We also call all organizations and individuals who agree with the demand and framework for a National Plan of Action for Racial Justice to help us build the National Alliance for Racial Justice and Human Rights (NARJHR) as a structure that will help us develop and implement a comprehensive national plan that centers oppressed peoples’ right to self-determination and the full realization of our human rights.

For more information about the Report or any of these action proposals, contact Kali Akuno at [kaliakuno@mxgm.org](mailto:kaliakuno@mxgm.org).

### Highlights from the Report

120 Black People Executed without Trial by Police, Security Guards and Self-Appointed Law Enforcers between Jan. – July 2012

12% were children under 18 years old.

18% were 18-21.

41% were 22-31.

15% were 32-41.

8% were 42-51.

4% were over age 52.

2% were of undetermined age.

71% of the lives lost belonged to people from the ages of 13 to 31. These executions happen nationwide: from north to south; east to west; in rural towns and large metropolitan areas. Like in the years of lynching, there is no geographic sanctuary. Yet some cities—especially in the South— execute Black people without trial in numbers disproportionate to the size of their Black populations. A significant proportion were killed because they suffered from mental health problems or were intoxicated and behaved in ways the police allegedly could not control.

What is the relationship between “stop and frisk” policies and procedures and racial profiling and these deadly encounters? In 43 killings (39%), police accounts cite “suspicious behavior or appearance” or traffic violations (“driving while Black”) as the reason for their attempt to detain the person whom they eventually killed. 18% of deadly encounters began with calls to 9-1-1 to seek help in resolving “domestic disturbances”. These included family members seeing assistance in dealing with mentally troubled people. 11 of those killed had violated no law or had not been involved in any harmful behavior were killed. That leaves only 36 people or 33% killed in the course of police investigating activity they define as “criminal”.

Most of the people executed were not armed. Here is the breakdown: 47 had no weapon at all at the time they were executed. 40 were alleged by police to have weapons (including a cane, toy gun and bb gun) but this allegation is disputed by witnesses or later investigation. Police are infamous for planting weapons or deciding that a cell phone, wallet or other harmless object is a gun.

In the first half of 2012, police alleged that 38 of the people they executed attempted to run away from them. 20 of the people who were murdered allegedly pointed guns at officers and/or attempted to crash into them. Reports often do not mention if the officers were wearing uniforms or if the suspects had any way of knowing their assailants were not civilians.

The most glaring way that women’s oppression enters the picture is in the high number of deaths (18%) that result from mothers, wives, lovers or other family members who call the police because they are desperate for help with their troubled, often frightening, kids and partners. Grassroots community crisis intervention and mediation would lighten the burdens that single mothers and survivors of domestic violence carry and also build towards more community self-reliance. As one mother whose emotionally troubled son said, “calling the police to calm a mentally ill child is like calling an undertaker to deliver a baby.”

The “justice system” gives impunity to murderers. Their murders have sparked massive mobilizations, media commentary, calls for government intervention, lawsuits and endless legal wrangling. However, after the initial announcements in local news media, the lives of most of those who were executed are forgotten. The standard procedure in most jurisdictions is for police involved in fatal shootings to be given paid “desk-duty” while the department conducts an investigation of itself. The press applauds their fine records while it screams about the criminal records of the deceased. Almost all killer cops are routinely exonerated and quickly return to the street. Grieving families who invariably ask the modest question, “why did he have to die?” are ignored. If there is some demonstrated community outrage the case may be further investigated. The legal system almost never charges these executioners and even if they do, the killing continues. A number of families seek legal redress through the civil courts and seek financial restitution. After years of litigation a tiny minority may gain some solace from a financial payment. And the executions continue. 6 security guards and self-appointed law enforcers (including Trayvon Martin’s killer and the Tulsa murderers) have been charged. 3 killer cops have been charged: one for vehicular homicide-DUI, two for manslaughter (Remarley Graham’s killer and Christopher Brown’s killer). That is, in 95 cases of extrajudicial killings, the legal system has only charged 9 people, less than 10%. The outcome of these charges is still pending.

For more information on this Report or to contribute updated information, please contact [arlene\\_eisen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:arlene_eisen@sbcglobal.net). “The Report on Black People Executed without Trial by Police, Security Guards and Self-Appointed Law Enforcers January 1 – June 30, 2012”, was produced by Arlene Eisen and Kali Akuno for the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement (MXGM). Special assistance was given by Ajamu Baraka.

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

Postal and printing costs are up. Dozens of new prisoners ask to get free subs every month. Over 1500 copies of each edition are sent 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?**

We rely entirely on subscriptions and reader donations to publish. We’ve been coming out for 25 years, distributing thousands of copies free to prisoners, anti-racists and other concerned people without partisan subsidy, government funds or corporate grants. We depend entirely on you, the reader, to keep printing hard-hitting anti-racist, anti-colonialist analysis. **If you like what you’re reading –Don’t delay -- Subscribe today:** \$16 individual/\$26 institutional or international annual subscription (for 4 quarterly issues). Subscribe via Paypal to [antiracistaction\\_la@yahoo.com](mailto:antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com) or send cash or a **US Postal Money Order only**

**to: Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232 (no checks please!)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTENTION PRISON SUBSCRIBERS! Because of financial constraints, prisoners who want a subscription must send 4 stamps for a year.** Too many papers are coming back because of address changes, releases or other similar problems. **TTT** is a small project: **we can’t provide books or legal aid.**

# FREE THE CLEVELAND FIVE

## Operation: Entrapment - Cleveland

Federal agents claim they successfully thwarted plans to blow up a bridge in Cleveland, Oh. What was left out, however, was that the FBI was instrumental in plotting the potential attack. The actions charged were orchestrated by undercover agent provocateurs. Five men were arrested in Cleveland for conspiracy and the use of explosive materials. Prosecutors link Brandon Baxter, 20; Anthony Hayne, 35; and Douglas Wright, 26, to an anti-government plot to bring down a large bridge with the aid of at least two accomplices. The FBI links them to the Occupy movement.

A closer look at the complaint against the five reveals that although the suspects are believed to have expressed anti-government sentiments and disdain for major financial corporations, the impetus in the would-be bombing was the urging of undercover agents who had infiltrated a group of friends and encouraged them to consider acts of terrorism. Although the incident is still developing, federal authorities have submitted statements and recordings stemming from conversations their contacts had with the alleged terrorists, and unsurprisingly the mainstream media is largely ignoring one key problem with the federal probe: members of an Occupy Wall Street off-shoot were provoked to embrace terrorist-like crimes despite voicing from the start that they were opposed to such.

The complaint considers the operation to have started from an OWS style protest in Cleveland on October 21, 2011. There the FBI dispatched an unnamed confidential human source — CHS — who had been recruited by the agency to work undercover earlier in the year. The FBI describes the CHS as a felon convicted of at least six charges dating back to the 1990s, including cocaine possession and robbery, yet entrusted the source to attend the OWS meeting in order to investigate reports “of potential criminal activity and threats involving anarchists who would be attending.” CHS singled out participants who “acted differently than the other[s] in attendance,” including the accused, Douglas Wright. CHS forged a relationship with Wright.

An exposé by *Mother Jones* and the Investigative Reporting Program at the UC-Berkley reveals the FBI has 15,000 undercover agents and CIs, with some making as much as \$100,000. What's more the FBI regularly dabbles in entrapment in order to encourage crime they can charge. The study shows that of 500 prosecutions in recent years relating to terrorism charges, the FBI used informants for about half of them. Of 158 prosecutions that ended in convictions, 1/3 were plots by agent provocateurs.

According to the criminal complaint, Wright and fellow self-described anarchists had been considering options “in order to send a message to corporations and the United States government.” In an encounter on March 28, both Wright and Brandon Baxter said they did not want people to think that they are terrorists. On that same day, along with the undercover informant, the group drove over Valley View Bridge and the conversation turned to bringing a similar structure to the ground. “I could show you,” said the informant, who then urged the group to exit the highway and investigate the bridge. The CHS then asked if they would be interested in purchasing blocks of C4 explosives, suggested to them that they need two, and then offered to put them in touch with another FBI agent, this time a 15-year veteran with a decade off the radar. At a March 28 meeting, Wright refused an offer to purchase “heavy stuff” from the agent. Later in the week, the officer asked them to consider purchasing a larger quantity of C4 at a discounted rate. Days later, the CHS insisted that Wright and Baxter act quick because they were “on the hook” for the explosives.

In the weeks leading up to the alleged attack, the FBI says that Baxter at one point said that the group had never agreed to blow up a bridge. “The problem with the cases we're talking about is that defendants would not have done anything if not kicked in the ass by government agents,” attorney Martin Stolar told *Mother Jones*. For their part, the FBI says this method is a plan for “preemption,” “prevention” and “disruption.”

The Cleveland 5 would greatly appreciate your letters of love, support and care. Four of the accused are currently being held at Youngstown Correctional. To write them, please address them as such:\*

Stevens, Connor (#57978060)  
Baxter, Brandon (#57972060)  
Anthony Hayne (#57975060)  
Joshua Stafford (#57976060)

Last Name, First Name  
ID#, NEOCC  
2240 Hubbard Rd.  
Youngstown, OH 44505  
Douglas L. Wright\*\*  
150 High St. NW  
Warren, OH 44481

\*Letters must be in pre-stamped envelopes. Remember letters are read before reaching the 5.

\*\*Please be sure to include Doug's middle initial, L., when addressing letters to him as there are two Douglas Wrights at Trumbull County Jail in Warren.

If you would like to make donations via check or money order, please make the check out to Conveyor Belt Collective (who is handling our donations)

Send checks to:  
**Cleveland 5 Justice**  
**P.O. Box 602117**  
**Cleveland, OH 44102**  
**cleveland5justice@gmail.com.**

# FREE THE N.A.T.O. FIVE

## Repression in Chicago

Eight people continue to be held in jail in Chicago, arrested before or during the protests against the NATO summit in Chicago in May. Four face federal terrorism-related charges, and the others serious felonies, while the NATO generals responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands have left town to return to Afghanistan and plotting their next war. Brian Church, Jared Chase, Brent Vincent Betterly and Sebastian Senakiewicz have been charged under a State of Illinois anti-terrorism law passed after 9/11 that had never been used. Together with Mark Neiweem, they've been called the NATO 5 for the seriousness of their charges and because they were all targeted by undercover officers exposed by the National Lawyers Guild. The agents went by the nicknames “Mo” and “Gloves.”

The NATO 5 were arrested without any evidence of their involvement in violence, other than the statements of undercover provocateurs. The first three arrests took place in an unlawful police raid of a home on Wednesday night, May 16, during which the police kicked in doors without presenting a warrant, beat up people, shackled protesters hand and foot, and then “disappeared” 11 people for up to 40 hours. The National Lawyers Guild and Occupy Chicago activists faced repeated denials by the Chicago Police in their attempts to locate those arrested.

The next two were arrested several days later. Again, no evidence has been presented other than the statements of the undercover police. Both of those men were held longer than the 48 hours required by law before being given access to use of a telephone or to speak with an attorney. What is important to note is that all the activists arrested were part of the “Fuck the Police” or anti-police march that took place on the south side of Chicago on Tuesday night. They marched on the streets of Bridgeport and wound up making some of the residents angry. They also taunted and messed around with police that were trying to control them with bicycles and keep them off the streets.

Additionally, the three activists that remain in jail are in the video of three Chicago police officers pulling them over in Bridgeport on May 9. The video, which went viral, features police questioning protesters and threatening them ahead of the NATO protest. They search the protesters' vehicle and threatened “pre-emptive police violence against those” who planned to attend the NATO summit protests.

One officer can be heard in the video saying, “We'll come look for you, each and every one of you.” And, the police also say the now infamous lines among occupiers:

CPD Officer 1: “You like that, he knows these guys know, '68. You guys know all about '68. What did they say back in '68?”

CPD Officer 2: “Billy club to the fucking skull.”

The three others who are still being held were involved in a protest action at the point when the police turned violent, causing over 70 injuries from baton blows, including many serious head injuries. Over 24 protesters had to be treated at area hospitals for broken bones, knocked out teeth, concussions and wounds requiring stitches or staples.

On top of the arrests and charges, the protesters are being held with outrageous bails: \$1.5 million each for the first three facing terrorism charges; \$750,000 for the fourth charged under the same state terrorism law; \$500,000 for the last of the NATO 5; and as high as \$250,000 for the rest.

It is the Chicago Police Department that is responsible for the violence that took place during the anti-NATO protests. The Chicago Police Department and the State's Attorney are violating the law and the Constitution.

Charges of terrorism, preemptive raids and prosecution, charges based on entrapment and violence against protesters are all standard procedure when the U.S. government declares a National Special Security Event, as they did with the NATO summit. These tactics were employed at the Republican National Convention in 2008, resulting in the cases of the RNC 8; the 23 anti-war activists raided by the FBI and subpoenaed to a grand jury for investigation of support for foreign terrorists; and the trial of Carlos Montes in Los Angeles. Now in Chicago, they've added the element of excessive bail.

The charges against the NATO 5 and the others are false. All these prisoners urgently need your solidarity. Please sign our petition. Share it with your family, friends, and co-workers. Signing the petition will generate a direct email to State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy, and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, demanding all charges be dropped.

<http://nato5.occupychi.org/content/sign-here-nato5>

**Donate to the Chicago Bail Fund!**

<https://www.wepay.com/donations/143498>

To send the NATO5 letters, address them to:

Brent Betterly #2012-0519001 Brian Church #2012-0519002  
Jared (Jay) Chase #2012-0519003 Mark Neiweem #2012-0520023  
Sebastian Senakiewicz #2012-0520030  
PO Box 089002  
Chicago IL 60608

# FREE THE TINLEY PARK FIVE

## Indiana Anti-Fascists Imprisoned

Saturday May 19, 2012 five men were arrested in Tinley Park, a Chicago suburb, for allegedly assaulting a number of white-supremacist organizers at a restaurant. Help us raise funds for their support and costly legal defense. One of the alleged “victims” was arrested on warrants for child pornography and another was arrested for possessing a firearm as a convicted felon. Bond has been set at nearly one million dollars for the alleged attackers. Funds are needed in order to secure adequate legal representation and ensure that their families are taken care of until they are released.

<http://tinleyparkfive.wordpress.com/about/>

This website does not condone or encourage the use of violence or illegal activities.

For unknown reasons, the Tinley Park Five are being relocated within the Cook County Jail quite frequently. Some inmates have been moved as many as seven times over the course of the last month. This is causing delays in their receiving correspondence. Books sent from major publishers seem to be getting to them more efficiently than other articles. Before visiting, please make sure to check the Cook County Jail website for visiting hours and current housing location. We're unsure of the motivations of these moves. It's possible that they are purely administrative.

It's also possible that these moves are a vain attempt to prevent the political prisoners from organizing and bonding with fellow inmates. A copy of *People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn was sent to each of the TP5 soon after their incarceration. One of the defendants reports that his copy of the book has people “lining up” to borrow it. Books and zines which do reach the TP5 are being circulated throughout the jail to inmates of all backgrounds. Contrary to the common image of willfully ignorant career criminals perpetuated by our media, prisoners are hungry for knowledge and education. Unfortunately, our “criminal justice” system places minimal emphasis on education and is slashing prisoner's access to libraries and educational opportunities.

We would like to encourage everyone to continue sending reading materials to the TP5 as well as all prisoners and to consider supporting groups like Books Through Bars and Pages For Prisoners.

Each and every member of the Tinley Park 5 are in great spirits. They are getting along well with the other inmates at Cook County Jail. Their two biggest concerns at this time are the safety of their family and friends, who are still receiving relentless threats of violence from the white supremacist community, and the boredom and anxiety that comes along with being imprisoned, especially not knowing how long they have till they will be released. Their support network is capably handling security concerns. The Tinley Park Five support network is also doing everything they can to help with with the monotony of prison life, but you can also help by writing letters, visiting, or providing financial support. The various acts of solidarity being shown by the antifascist, anarchist, and activist communities across the world are the fuel that keeps us all going through these stressful times. Thank you to everyone who has given a few dollars, written a letter, retweeted a link, shared a news story, sent a book or zine, dedicated an action to or visited them, assisted with security, and have otherwise aided in this campaign to free the Tinley Park Five. It's impossible to convey how much this means to both us and them.

<https://www.wepay.com/donations/legal-defense-fund-for-the-tinley-park-five>

Any financial help you can spare will be greatly appreciated and will go directly to the Tinley Park Five defense efforts.

To write the Tinley Park Five, address correspondence to:

**Cook County Department of Corrections**

**Jason Sutherlin, 2012-0521141**  
**Alex Stuck, 2012-0521142**  
**Dylan Sutherlin, 2012-0521144**  
**Cody Sutherlin, 2012-0521148**  
**John Tucker, 2012-0521143**

**P.O. Box 089002**  
**Chicago, IL 60608**

The inmates are requesting reading materials of all sorts, but keep in mind, the more militant/radical the reading materials you send, the less likely they are to receive them.

The *Tinley Park Five* have specifically requested photocopies of news articles, photocopies of zines, books on any topics but especially social justice, history, and science-fiction/fantasy.

## PART's Perspective:

# CHICKENS COMING HOME TO ROOST

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

The excuse seized upon by reactionary elements within the Nation of Islam to suspend Malcolm X was his remark that the assassination of John F. Kennedy was a case of "chickens coming home to roost," referring to the CIA-orchestrated assassinations of Lumumba in the Congo, Diem in Vietnam, and others. Malcolm's insight was that the often-naked violence the US Empire visits on all the world's people, and the sometimes-hidden violence the rulers and their henchmen inflict on exploited, oppressed and colonized inside the borders of the U.S., has inevitable karmic consequences for the population and political system of the US itself. This has only become more undeniable with every passing year.

Not long after Malcolm's assassination, nor long before his own, Martin Luther King Jr. expressed the same understanding of the nature of this society in his declaration that the U.S. government was the greatest purveyor of violence on the planet. That insight as well has become increasingly irrefutable, as the margins of this "greatness" begin to reach logarithmic proportions. Open US military spending exceeds that of most of the rest of the planet. Add in the domestic military, the prisons and police, the private security apparatus of the corporate sector and the super-rich, and the megatonnage of US armament is virtually incalculable.

And yet the Colossus has feet of clay. Imperialism remains a paper tiger. Its greatest strength has always been the consent of its settler colonial population and its neo-colonial puppets, and this is continuing to evaporate. Thus the military under Bush and now Obama has turned to drones and robots to enforce its will, to panopticon surveillance of the restive population, and still finds itself besieged and bedeviled by resistance. Iraq and Afghanistan are unpacified, Libya destabilized, and that damn Occupy movement won't stay dead. The economy remains flat-lined, the Europeans can't be relied on to suppress their own people, and the BRICS –Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa -- won't accept the role of imperial subalterns. They actually seem intent on leapfrogging the US without firing a shot.

This increasingly maddening sense of frustration that percolates through the imperial rulers, the 1%, inevitably trickles down much faster than the wealth they are still soaking up from around the globe. The untrammelled impunity with which Barack Obama executes enemies of the state around the world, without so much as a by-your-leave, is reflected in the pandemic of police abuse on the streets of our inner cities, the quads of our college campuses, and in the decaying white-flight suburbs that are inevitably and increasingly darkening with the urban poor driven out of the cities by gentrification.

From the gentrified ArtWalk of downtown L.A. to the shadow of Disneyland in Anaheim, booted and suited cops in riot gear and helmets erupt with rubber bullets, pepper-spray, and bean-bag guns when faced with the fearsome threat of protest with chalk or placards. Police killings with impunity have become pandemic. Behind prison walls, the wretched of the earth have lost the fear of death, and are using their manifestation of a refusal to consent, by refusing to eat, to demand elemental human rights. The people's spirit remains greater than the man's technology. But the madness unleashed by the rulers continues spilling over, in organized and unorganized mayhem, whether by militias, vigilantes, or loose cannons often shepherded by agents provocateurs. The latest spasm of the death-culture, at the Dark Knight premier in Aurora CO left many

unanswered questions about how the "lone gunman" got his guns, his ammo, his battle gear and his expertise with highly-sophisticated explosives. But whatever the specific details prove to be, there is no doubt where he got his inspiration – not just from the cornucopia of violent video games and feature films, but the reality that the Empire is one vast theater of war day in and day out. Imperialism, colonialism and capitalism are a non-stop, relentless state of war against the planet and the people. Since the ruling ideas of this age are the ideas of the rulers, it is no wonder that we are seeing more and more deranged racists and self-haters expressing their sense of the valuelessness of human life, right alongside the paid gendarmes that have been so carefully trained to do the same by the military and "law enforcement."



That is why our resistance must always be rooted in self-criticism, in a rejection of the values of patriarchy, privilege, possessiveness and white supremacy, if we are to have any hope of building a new world on the ashes of the old. Only by extricating ourselves from the grip of identification with the oppressor and the internalization of our own oppression can we begin to build authentically human and natural relationships of solidarity, mutual aid and respect, and a sustainable relationship with the rest of the natural world.

*Turning the Tide* is one small contribution to that process and to the capacity of the people to resist self-critically and in a sustained way. With our next issue, we will mark our 25th year of uninterrupted grassroots publication. We invite you to join us in commemorating that project and in raising funds to ensure its continued growth. For more information or to get involved, call 323-901-4269, email [antiracistaction\\_la@yahoo.com](mailto:antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com) or write us at PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.

## July 12 ChalkWalk: LAPD Attacks Occupy LA, Downtown Residents

It's unfortunate that time and time again we have seen peaceful events grow to riots caused by an excessive show of force by the LAPD. For a bit of background- the chalk walk event was organized by a group of activists associated with Occupy Los Angeles to bring attention to the arrests that have been occurring at 626 Wilshire (the Central City East Association building). Those arrests have largely occurred due to activists chalking political messages outside of the building, to bring attention to various initiatives being pressed forward by the CCEA to essentially strip downtown clean of people they see as undesirable. Since NBC is uninterested in doing any research to coherently articulate what the organizers intention was and since even the Artwalk co-founder seems to be incapable of reading a press release or stay aware of what people in his community do; Let me state again. The purpose of Chalk Walk was to bring attention to the arrests that had been occurring at the CCEA, which functions as kind of Chamber of Commerce for downtown corporate gentrifiers.

The action was planned to take place between 5th and 6th on Spring Street and was intended to be a peaceful outreach event to encourage friendly dialogue. Many Artwalk regulars (parents and their children included) stopped by to draw with us.

Many interesting conversations sparked from discussing MacKinney vs. Nielsen, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision that ruled that chalk could not be considered vandalism and was a constitutionally protected form of free speech under the first amendment. 8 arrests occurred between 7:30 and 8:45. All for... you guessed it-chalking. Everything remained peaceful during the first 7 arrests as the chalkers remained calm as they were taken into custody.

The escalating incident happened during the 8th arrest. Apparently the LAPD wanted the chalk gone, the rain wasn't working fast enough for them, and formed a skirmish line in front of the chalkers. Occupiers formed a line and started chanting. A lot of the Artwalk patrons were confused as to why there were riot police when no riot was occurring. A female art patron -not associated with OLA- trying to de-escalate the situation, walked in the middle of the two lines and drew a smiling stick figure. She was then tackled to the ground by cops with such force that it caused her boyfriend to panic and lunge toward the police to protect her. He was shoved away by a couple of officers. The womyn was then grabbed, flipped over, dropped face down onto the street and pinned down by an officer's knee. Her boyfriend was visibly upset and had to be restrained by four of his friends. It was at this point that a multitude of Art walk patrons rushed into the street to protest her treatment. Tear gas was fired.

### Skid Row Media: Chalk Walk report

As the crowd swelled, residents watching from their windows began to throw bottles at the police line. It was this excuse that LAPD took to begin firing rubber bullets into the crowd. Some artwalk bystanders were hit by the less-lethal ammunition\* and suffered some pretty ugly injuries as a result.

One man was shot in his chest, had the wind knocked out of him and ended up collapsing right in front of the skirmish line.



BEFORE L.A.P.D.



AFTER L.A.P.D.

A few female protesters holding the front line rushed forward to help him and called for a medic. However we could not get to him before the police kicked the skateboard he was cradling into his face.

As we were all forced to take a step back we watched as he was trampled over, flipped onto his face, zipped tied and dragged onto the sidewalk.

It was at this point that some bar patrons came out and hurled a couple bottles at the police. Two female occupiers mic check and told the crowd, "Don't throw bottles! When you do that the cops don't care to aim at you. They just shoot in your general direction." "Keep your brothers and sisters safe, we are not prepared to deal with less-lethal ammunition."

At one point the police attempted a right flank to kettle protesters but everyone was able to get out of the designated area. We believe an additional three people were arrested as LAPD pushed the crowd north on Spring, none of which were associated with Occupy L.A. A couple hours and probably hundreds of thousands of city dollars spent on LAPD machismo later, the crowd naturally dispersed and continued along with their night.

So- now the real nitty gritty- Why did this happen? I'll keep this brief since this post is running a bit on the long side. This wasn't about chalk, this wasn't about 'people provoking the cops'- it was about finding any excuse to lock up individuals speaking out about what is going on in downtown.

The CCEA's Safer Cities Initiative is nothing more than a way to gentrify the area into a mono-socio/economic neighborhood that does not have to worry about "ethnic problems." Harassing the unhoused population of Skid Row and coercing them to leave is just the first step to expand CCEA's current 97 block territory to cover the whole of downtown. You don't believe the poor and unhoused get harassed without reason? Go to LACAN and talk to any of the individuals that work there and I guarantee you will have an entirely different perspective on what goes on in downtown. The Safer Cities Initiative also lays out a plan that CCEA plans to implement by 2020 that would in essence clear out all of the businesses from Santee Alley.

Skid Row is home mostly to African American residents and Santee Alley comprises mostly Mexicano/indigenous or Korean business owners. While this 2020 plan may not be intentionally racist, it certainly brings into question the morality of determining someone's future or making decisions about someone's livelihood in a way that will not benefit them in any way. As well as the morality of such decisions being made by people who only stand to benefit by other's misfortunate. In the end- this is all about economics and keeping money in the hands of the "right" people. CCEA is tied in with Villaraigosa, Jan Perry and the business interests pushing for the NFL Stadium downtown and the Chinatown Walmart.

\*Note: less-lethal ammunition refers to rubber bullets, foam grenades, pepper spray rounds, tear gas, or any other ammunition the LAPD normally refers to as "non-lethal". While law enforcement claims that these are not intended to kill the people they are aimed at; there have been various documented incidents of people dying or receiving life threatening injuries as a result of "improper use" of said ammunition. Tear gas and other chemical weapons have also been documented to cause miscarriages. [www.occupylosangeles.org](http://www.occupylosangeles.org) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/409943035709455/>

# People's History: Great Strike of 1877

Excerpted from United Electrical Workers News

135 years ago, American workers exploded with rage — and the rulers feared the fury of the “terror” from within. A headline in the Chicago Times in 1877 expressed the capitalists’ anxious outrage: “Terrors Reign, The Streets of Chicago Given Over to Howling Mobs of Thieves and Cutthroats.”

The U.S. was suffering through the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a major economic depression. A strike by railroad workers sparked a coast-to-coast conflagration, as workers driven by despair and desperation battled troops in the streets of major U.S. cities. The ruling elite, badly shaken by the widespread protests, thought a revolution was underway. The New York Sun prescribed “a diet of lead for the hungry strikers.”

If there ever was such a thing, this was no ordinary strike. It was an explosion of “firsts.” The Great Railroad Strike of 1877 was the first major strike in an industry that propelled America’s industrial revolution. It was the first national strike. In some cities, especially St. Louis, the struggle became one of the nation’s first general strikes. This was the first major strike broken by the U.S. military. Probably in no other strike had so many working people met a violent death at the hands of the authorities.

The Great Strike was born of one of the periodic economic downturns that have caused misery for working people throughout U.S. history. A bank panic on Sept. 18, 1873 disintegrated into depression. “Weekly the layoffs, wage cuts, strikes, evictions, breadlines and hunger increased,” wrote Richard Boyer and Herbert Morais in *Labor’s Untold Story*. As the depression stretched into 1874, the unemployed demanded work and unions fought wage cuts. By 1877 there were as many as three million unemployed (roughly 27 percent of the working population). “Two-fifths of those employed were working no more than 6 to 7 months a. Wages had been cut by as much as 45 percent, often to little more than a dollar a day.” Newspapers reported cases of starvation and suicide.

Political crisis mirrored the economic mess. Many believed the new president had reached the White House through fraud. Rutherford Hayes, a Republican, was not the man for whom a majority of voters had cast their ballots. Democrat Samuel Tilden won the popular vote but 20 disputed electoral votes from Florida threw the election into the House of Representatives. Thomas Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad reached a deal with Hayes: in exchange for a federal bailout of his troubled investment in the Texas and Pacific Railroad, the millionaire industrialist would deliver Congressional votes to Hayes. As a further inducement, the Republicans promised to end Reconstruction, a blatant betrayal of African Americans. Southern Congressmen deserted Tilden. Hayes withdrew federal troops from the South, ending Reconstruction and its promise of equality for former slaves.

The Pennsylvania Railroad had already slashed wages by 10% when it cut wages another 10% in June. The next month it announced that the size of eastbound trains would be doubled, without any increase in crews. Angry workers took control of switches and blocked the trains. On July 13, the Baltimore & Ohio cut the wages of all workers making more than a dollar a day. The company reduced the workweek to two or three days, a further pay cut. On July 16 firemen and brakemen refused to work. The company tried to bring on replacements but the strikers assembled at Camden Junction, three miles from Baltimore, would not let trains run in any direction. The word quickly spread to Martinsburg, WV, where workers abandoned their trains and prevented others from operating them. The company appealed to the governor, who called out the militia.

Militiamen and workers exchanged gunfire. The scabs ran off, the militia withdrew — and the strikers were left in control of their idled trains. Federal troops armed with Springfield rifles and Gatling guns arrived on July 19. The show of force got the trains running, releasing the 13 locomotives and 1,500 freight cars. But the strike was far from over. “Indeed, it was barely begun,” reported Harper’s Weekly. Believing that strikers in Cumberland

were stopping eastbound trains, Maryland’s governor ordered out the militia. Within a half-hour of the call, “at least 2,000 men, women, and children surrounded the armory and loudly expressed their feelings against the military and in favor of the strikers,” according to Harper’s Weekly. The police were powerless. Once the troops emerged for their march to Camden Station, they opened fire. The militia killed at least 10 and wounded others, including onlookers.

Sympathy for the strikers was even stronger in Pittsburgh. Here, said Boyer and Morais, the strike against the Pennsylvania Railroad “had the support even of businessmen, angry because of extortionate freight rates.” The police and local militia sided with the strikers, so authorities had to appeal for troops from Philadelphia. When the militia arrived and marched out of the station, they were met with an angry crowd — and, according to Harper’s, “a shower of stones.” They emptied their rifles into the crowd, killing 20 men, women and children and wounding 29. A newspaper headline read: “Shot in Cold Blood. The Lexington of the Labor Conflict at Hand. The Slaughter of Innocents.”

As the news reached nearby rolling mills and manufacturing shops, workers came rushing to the scene. Workers broke into a gun factory and seized rifles and small arms. By midnight, 20,000 surrounded the roundhouse, 5,000 of them armed. Workers and soldiers exchanged gunfire throughout the night. The workers nearly succeeded in burning out the troops by sending a blazing oil car hurtling against a nearby building. The next morning the troops evacuated the roundhouse and fought their way out of town. Pittsburgh policemen were among those reportedly taking aim at the strikebreakers. The crowd torched the railroad station, roundhouse, company offices and scores of railroad cars. The New York World told its readers that Pittsburgh was “in the hands of men dominated by the devilish spirit of Communism.” On July 21, President Hayes issued a proclamation warning strikers and sympathizers to disperse within 24 hours. Clashes

between troops and strikers in Reading added to the death toll among workers.

The strike reached Chicago, as workers on the Michigan Central followed the example of the men on the other lines. General Sheridan’s cavalry, newly recalled from the South, attacked a group of workers there, killing many and wounding many more. The workers of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad joined the strike in St. Louis, where the Workingmen’s Party coordinated a general strike. At one of its huge meetings, writes Marieke van Ophem, “a black man was the voice for those who worked on the steamboats and levees. He asked: ‘Will you stand to us, regardless of color?’ The crowd shouted in response: ‘We will!’” Not only did the trains cease running, but breweries, mills, foundries and other shops shut as well. As a result of this working-class solidarity, bosses agreed to pay raises and shorter working hours without a reduction in wages. Then the military arrived — the U.S. Army and state militia, as well as armed vigilantes in the service of the bosses. Although there had been no violence, St. Louis came under martial law. Strike leaders were thrown in jail. Bosses canceled the wage increases and the eight-hour day. In the end, the government’s ability to inflict violence on strikers and supporters got the trains rolling again. As one worker put it, “We were shot back to work.” By early August the strike had collapsed everywhere.

Some 100,000 workers had gone on strike, and countless unemployed had joined the strikers to protest intolerable conditions. Farmers who hated the railroad companies fed the strikers. More than half the freight on the nation’s 75,000 miles of track had stopped moving. More than 100 had died and 1,000 strikers had been jailed. The results of the Great Strike were mixed. Even as they agreed to some worker demands, bosses were determined to never



again allow workers the upper hand. “The railroads made some concessions, rescinded some wage cuts, but also strengthened their ‘Coal and Iron Police,’” writes van Ophem. “In several large cities, National Guard armories were constructed, with loopholes for guns.”

Working people learned that without strong unions and nationwide organization they could not defeat the alliance of capital and government. America’s Industrial Revolution was underway, and with it, born in the blood of men and women who yearned for a better life, a modern labor movement.

## More People's History: Edith Garrud: “Suffragette” Taught Martial Arts, Advocated Women’s Self-Defense Against Arrest

By Rachel Williams guardian.co.uk

The horrors of force-feeding endured by imprisoned women’s-suffragists on hunger strike are well known; the image of rubber tubes rammed down women’s throats as they were held or tied down is hard to shake. Less widely documented have been the efforts made to protect the movement’s leaders from arrest in the first place. A 30-strong elite “bodyguard” was trained to resist the police using the martial art jiu-jitsu, by Edith Garrud. 100 years after her accomplishments, the Islington council unveiled a People’s Plaque, voted for by residents, at the house where she lived in Thornhill Square, London.

One of the western world’s first female martial arts instructors, Garrud, who died in 1971 aged 99, is thought to have learned jiu-jitsu in the late 19th century. She began working with the women’s suffrage movement, eventually at her own women-only training hall, a room at the Palladium Academy dance school in Argyll Street. When the government passed the notorious “Cat and Mouse Act” in 1913 – under which hunger strikers were released only to be re-arrested when they had regained their strength – the Women’s Social and Political Union responded by setting up a dedicated unit to protect Emmeline Pankhurst and other leaders from arrest.

Martial arts expert Tony Wolf, author of a book about Edith Garrud aimed at teenage girls, says there was a “direct progression” from this job to that of official trainer of the bodyguard. “Members [of the bodyguard] had to be athletic and willing to face injury and arrest. She trained them in jiu-jitsu at secret locations throughout London, and taught them how to use wooden Indian clubs, which were concealed in their dresses and used as weapons against the truncheons of the police.”

Garrud was just 4 ft. 11 in. tall. In 1910 she produced an illustrated article explaining how woman using the jiu-jitsu methods had “brought great burly cowards nearly twice their size to their feet and made them howl for mercy. Woman is

exposed to many perils nowadays, because so many who call themselves men are not worthy of that exalted title, and it is her duty to learn how to defend herself,” she wrote. In the same year a Punch cartoon depicted policemen cowering before her. But Tony Wolf cautions against romanticized images of suffragettes throwing officers around. “The bodyguard had some remarkable tactical victories using decoys and disguises,” he says. “But the grim reality is that they were heavily outnumbered by the police and were often injured.”



# Call for 3rd Annual July 31st Day of Action Against Fascism and Racism

by the Anti-Racist Action Network

Join us on July 31, 2012 as we come together to deliver a message to fascists and racists in our neighborhoods and communities: **Get out!**

For the past two years, antifascist and anti-racist organizers across the world have worked together to make July 31st a day to oppose white supremacy. This annual event was started in 2010 as a response to white supremacist attacks against anti-racists and antifascists, attacks that were meant to stop us from organizing.

Fascists and racists should not have a chance to let their ideas take root in our communities. History has shown that ignoring racist groups when they hold marches and demonstrations does not make them go away. Organized racists and fascists -- whether neo-Nazi, Klan, white power skinhead crew, or the Minutemen -- leave intimidation and violence in their wake wherever they settle.

We don't believe in waiting for the police to handle the fascists and racists, either. We've had our fair share of encounters with the police, and we know their job is to "serve" us with harassment, beatings and arrests. We've seen how the police stand around and protect the fascists whenever they hold a rally or a march, but are quick to crack skulls at an anti-war march or an Occupy protest. We've also seen how the police routinely criminalize, harass, arrest, and attack people of color and queer people. We know that institutions like the police and prisons can never be "fixed" or "reformed" if their function is to maintain a racist and homophobic power structure.

We encourage participants to support the July 31st Day of Action in whatever ways make the most sense locally. Want to plan a punk or hip-hop show to raise funds for antifa? Do it. Want to flyer your neighborhood about a local neo-Nazi? Go for it! Want to organize an anti-police brutality march or a prison abolition teach-in? Yes, please!

If you are having a hard time finding inspiration for a solidarity action, we wish to remind folks that over the past few months two great intelligence releases have transpired; The first was the hack on American Third Position (A3P). Their web-site was defaced and then destroyed; antifascists hackers then released loads of juicy private conversations as well as hundreds of members and supporters names and addresses.

<http://www.zone-h.org/mirror/id/16824727>

The next is the National Socialist Movement (NSM). The ex-wife of the NSM leader, Jeff Schoep, handed over a notebook of his filled with the full NSM membership roster, including names and addresses and some social security numbers, of every member dating back from 2004 up to December of 2011. See the full story here: [http://www.onepeoplesproject.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=959:whos-who-in-the-natl-socialist-movement-membership-list-leake&catid=29:antifa-news&Itemid=14](http://www.onepeoplesproject.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=959:whos-who-in-the-natl-socialist-movement-membership-list-leake&catid=29:antifa-news&Itemid=14)

Both of these organizations would make for great targets for the J31 day of action. In fact, we hope that they are the major focus of this Day of Action.

Although we recognize the limitations of single "days of action", we hope July 31st will serve as a catalyst for long lasting, pro-active antifascist affinity groups or organizations. We believe that we need a dedicated and large force of militant antifascists with great intelligence, analysis, and dedication to crushing emerging extreme Right and fascist movements.

If your organization or crew is interested in endorsing the July 31st Day of Action, please contact us at [July31DOA@yahoo.com](mailto:July31DOA@yahoo.com)

**For more information, check the network website at [www.antiracistaction.org](http://www.antiracistaction.org)**

**Fight Fascism, Smash Racism**

## Anti-Racist Action Network's 18th Annual Conference Returns to Columbus OH

Arch City ARA is pleased to announce that we will be holding the Anti-Racist Action Network's 18th annual conference this year in our hometown of Columbus, OH during October 12th-15th, 2012.

This year's conference is especially important to us because it marks a return to the city where the first official ARA conference took place in 1994, as well as falling on the weekend of the 7th anniversary of the Toledo Riots, a historic victory for antifascists against the National Socialist Movement on October 15, 2005

The conference will include ARA's annual plenary, caucuses, and discussion on current issues facing antifascists. All said events will be held privately. Any non-network-vouched chapters or individuals who agree with the points of unity and want to be involved please contact Arch City ahead of time at [archcity@antiracistaction.org](mailto:archcity@antiracistaction.org) to fill out registrations and get vouched in.

**Arch City ARA**  
[archcityara.blogspot.com](http://archcityara.blogspot.com)  
[archcity@antiracistaction.org](mailto:archcity@antiracistaction.org)

## Building a Powerful Country-wide Grass-roots Movement to Save the People's Post Office

By Dave Welsh, [www.SaveThePostOffice.com](http://www.SaveThePostOffice.com)

Without question, the big-business class – and their agents in USPS headquarters, the executive branch and Congress – are on a path to dismantle the Postal Service, privatize the profitable parts of it, and neutralize or destroy the postal unions.

Their whole economic system is in crisis. It's not working. So the 1% are trying to pull their own chestnuts out of the fire by a full-bore attack on unions, the workers and the poor – an attack on our union contracts, our jobs, economic security, wages, benefits, conditions, and social services. Their assault on the Post Office is part of this strategy.

How can we fight it? By itself, the legislative strategy – trying to influence Congress – is not working. Congress is bought and sold by the 1% – they won't begin to listen to us until we're in the streets, mobilized in all our numbers.

The rank and file postal workers, and our communities, who support us – this is the source of our real strength. We need to reach out and tap into it, just as we did in the Great 1970 Postal Strike. That grassroots upsurge brought about a big change in the relationship of forces between postal workers and the bosses. What used to be work for poverty wages became a living-wage job, with a union contract to protect the workers' rights. Any postal worker can see this.

A statement by the Million Worker March movement helps to clarify the situation we face today: "All important social movements ... in this country were started from the bottom up (rank and file/grass roots) and not from the top down.... A handful of the rich, and powerful corporations have usurped our government. A corporate and banking oligarchy changes hats and occupies public office to wage class war on working people. They have captured the State in their own interests." (Oct. 17, 2011)

When Reagan took office as President, one of his first acts was to bust the PATCO air traffic controllers union, ushering in three decades of attacks on the union movement and steady decline in the living standards of the working class.

Today, the 1% have a much bigger target – the Postal Service. They hate the fact that the 574,000 who work for the nation's second biggest employer are under union contract and making a living wage.

They hate the fact that in 1970 the postal workers took their destiny into their own hands and shut down the entire mail system for the better part of a week, demonstrating the power of the workers and disrupting business as usual. And the 1970 nationwide postal strike taught another lesson: that the wealth of the 1% only exists because the 99% creates it for them.

The nation's largest employer is Walmart. The employer class would dearly love to reduce those 574,000 postal workers to Walmart wages and non-union status. But just because they want it, doesn't mean they'll get it.

### **The Racist Side of the Campaign to Demolish the P.O. and Bust the Unions**

There's another side to the move to dismantle and destroy the public Postal Service, this country's largest unionized employer. And that is the disproportionate effect it would have on workers and communities of color.

If you've ever seen a group picture of postal workers from before World War II, you noticed that it was a practically all-white group, and mostly men. But in the 50s, things began to change, with the development of the civil rights and Black Liberation movements. The P.O. began hiring Asian Americans, Latinos, Mexican Americans, African

Americans, and a lot more women. So that by the time of the 1970 Strike, it was a much more integrated and diverse work force.

Today the Postal Service is the largest single source of Black employment, and for many workers, one of the few places where living-wage jobs are still available in our low-pay, "post-industrial" economy.

The campaign to privatize and de-unionize the USPS is a threat to the livelihood of every affected worker and neighborhood. But it stands to hit hardest in those communities of color that are already suffering unemployment at Great Depression levels.

### **Building Community/Labor Coalitions in every city and town**

We can and must build a powerful, nationwide movement to defeat privatization, maintain living-wage postal jobs, expand postal services, and save the Post Office as a public entity operating in the public interest.

This grass-roots effort has already begun. Community-based coalitions are springing up, with some creative tactics. Here's a sampling:

In New York City, Community-Labor United for Postal Jobs & Services organized large neighborhood protests to stop the closing of postal facilities in Harlem, South Bronx, Staten Island, Chelsea, and Coop City – as well as keep 6-day delivery and preserve living-wage postal jobs. The youth group of Al Sharpton's National Action Network participated in a "Don't Close It" march and occupation of a Harlem station. The coalition also organized a march of 500 to the Main Post Office on the anniversary of the 1970 postal strike. <http://clupjs.com>  
**SavethePostOffice@sonic.net www.cpwunited.com**

**There is no single institution on earth that undermines the well-being of the world more than the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in northern New Mexico.**

# Stopping Los Alamos National Lab & Nuclear War

by (Un) Occupy Albuquerque

As a tool of the U.S. empire, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) developed the only nuclear bombs to be used as weapons of war—in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 and three days later in Nagasaki. At least 225,000 people died as a result, hundreds of thousands died later of cancers, and thousands more inherited birth defects from their irradiated parents and grandparents.

Today, the U.S. nuclear stockpile contains enough warheads to destroy 159,000 Hiroshimas. With threats of a U.S. strike against Iran and with Israel's U.S.-backed hegemony in the Middle East, it is time to shut down the war machine.

## Toxic earth

It is not possible to develop and maintain nuclear weaponry without displacing indigenous people and destroying the air, water, earth and all living things that live on it. LANL is built on and is contaminating indigenous land “borrowed” by the U.S. government and never returned.

Since 1945, the United States has exploded over 1100 nuclear weapons in tests on land,

# White Privilege and Mass Murders in America

Posted on July 21, 2012 by Three Sonorans <http://threesonorans.com/2012/07/21/white-privilege-in-american-mass-shootings/>

There he goes again, that darn Three Sonorans playing the race card again...

I made a comment on Facebook yesterday:

Trying to shoot down MAS classes and not looking in the mirror to see what in American culture causes mass shootings...

and immediately was met with complaints that the Colorado shooting has nothing to do with race or MAS (Mexican American Studies).

My point was that we focus so much on the danger of Chicanos learning their history when the real threat comes from crazy Americans with very easy access to guns, but that is besides the point for now.

Does the Colorado *Dark Knight* shooting have anything to do with race? For those who know about Critical Race Theory and view events and issues through that special lens, the answer is interesting either way. If it does have to do with race, then that discussion can continue.

But I want to consider the opposite; what if the shooting has nothing to do with race? This is actually where things get interesting.

Remember when that airplane crashed into that building in an attempt to kill federal employees a few years ago? A man was mad at the IRS and drove his plane into a building in Austin, Texas in 2010. The man was white.

You might say, why does his race matter? Because when a criminal is not white, it matters to everyone. If the man was brown-skinned we would wonder if he was sent from the Mexican drug cartels, or if he was part of some Muslim terrorist group, or if he had ties to the Black Panthers... His race would concern everyone.

Here is an experiment. Close your eyes now and try to envision the white man that crashed his plane into the Austin building? Do you have his face memorized? What does he look like? Now think of “shoe-bomber.” His face was everywhere on TV.

Do you remember these pictures? Richard Reid killed no one, the only damage he caused was to his shoes, but we all know his face and we know he is a “terrorist.”

Do you recognize the man with the guitar in the picture above? Joseph Stack was the man who crashed a plane into a building. News reports make sure to point out that he acted alone and is not a “terrorist.”

The FBI identified the pilot as Joseph Stack, a 53-year-old software engineer. Stack was confirmed dead, but his body has not yet been recovered. At least one person who worked in the building was unaccounted for and two people were hospitalized, thirteen others were treated and released said Austin Fire Department Division Chief Dawn Clopton. Emergency crews found two bodies in the building late Thursday evening, but wouldn't identify them.

Texas Republican Congressman Michael McCaul told reported the incident was, “not tied to overseas terror organizations.”

A U.S. law official said investigators were looking at a lengthy, anti-government “manifesto” Stack is believed to have written on his Web site. The message outlines problems with the IRS and says violence “is the only answer.”

Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,586581,00.html>

Isn't a terrorist someone who uses terror, as in fear, usually against civilians? Note there is no mention of race in these definitions. When GOP Congressman McCaul says above that Stack was “not tied to overseas terror organizations” what exactly does this mean, why is it even being said, especially when you consider Stack's manifesto that says “violence is the only answer”?

According to the definition above, Stack's use of violence to achieve a political aim, the aim here being the offices of the IRS in Austin, satisfies the requirements to be a terrorist.

But note the use of the word “overseas.” Overseas as in foreigners. But nowhere is it mentioned by the Congressman that this is clearly an act of domestic terrorism, by American citizens.

Now when it comes to events such as Columbine and the Aurora incident, since they were mass murders we know the people involved, and just as with the Tucson Tragedy, the face of the young white man is displayed on the TV 24-7 right now. How ironic that the media always uses smiling photos of these murderers, as they did with Jared Loughner. The similarities are there. Both were students that were failing out of school and clearly worried about it.

Were they racists? Who knows; maybe they were or maybe they weren't. But that's not the question right now. Neither is the question why these two white men hate America. Why do they hate us? Why are they jealous of Americans?

Despite these heinous acts, other young white men are not afraid of being racially profiled now. Will people now fear white men when they get onto airplanes wearing a college T-shirt? What if they smile at them? Then they definitely fit the profile of a domestic terrorist!

underground, and in the ocean, exposing millions of unsuspecting humans and animals to radiation.

## Corporate greed

Los Alamos is NOT operated by the U.S. government. In an egregious breach of world security, the U.S. nuclear weapons industry was sold to the highest bidder in 2007. The lab is now controlled by Bechtel Corporation, the notorious engineering firm that built about half of the nuclear plants in the world as well as the oil infrastructure of Saudi Arabia. Bechtel was awarded more than \$55 million in pure profit for its LANL operations last year.

**Join us in Los Alamos, NM on August 6, 2012  
to put the empire on notice:**

**No more corporate greed!  
No more pollution.  
No more war.  
!ya basta! LANL**

Race does not matter in this case, nor should it. The cops would waste their time and energy by racially profiling all young men in suburbia. It is best to keep race out of this.

This efficiency is called White Privilege.

You already know that if it was a Muslim that did the crime, the news would be speaking right now about the threat of “Muslim” terrorism. This Batman shooting will never be referred to as “White” terrorism or “American” terrorism. Everyone knows that American and terrorism are exact opposites! Americans are the ones that fight terrorism, not engage in it. We never use violence against other people around the world, they have no need to fear us.

We just know that they are jealous of us because we are so rich. Not because of lives lost in their families or communities destroyed.

I digress.

What if the shooter was not white? The Virginia Tech shooter was not white, and we all know thanks to the news that he was an immigrant from South Korea. They chose only the best pictures with a smiling face to let Americans know what that killer looked like. Now just imagine if the mass shooter was a former Mexican American Studies student! You know that news would be all over that!

Joseph Stack had an anti-government manifesto... yawn...

White Christian militias in places like Michigan or cults like the Branch Davidians... these are brave patriots and their stockpiling of weaponry is an homage to the greatness of the Second Amendment. Until they go and kill people or spread their own domestic terrorism. But we never wonder why they hate America.

We just sit and wonder... why? Why did this happen? Surely it has nothing to do with our culture even though it is Americanism that keeps spawning these people out, and that gives them the guns to act through on their fears.

This is not a time to declare war on their kind, because they are us. They come from within.

It is also not a time to declare war on another country, or have all college students strip during airport searches. No profiling of any kind will take place. Nor should it.

That's the benefit of White Privilege. And that is something many of us, including myself, do not have. Until the day I die I will always be “reasonably suspicious,” a possible drug-cartel member or illegal immigrant. I will never be waved through border patrol checkpoints which not dot Southern Arizona like those in the car in front of me. Even the books I read and music I listen to or art I enjoy will be used against me in a court of law, as it was in the Ethnic Studies trial in Arizona.

And despite the race of the mass shooters, from Jared Loughner to James Holmes, or to other murderers outside of Tucson such as Shawna Forde and Jason Bush, white supremacist members of the Minutemen that killed Brisenia Flores and her father while also shooting her mother, the Sheriff Arpaio lovers and Tea Party will never start fearing their grandkids even though Russell Pearce and Jan Brewer have sons in jail. Or the person that Pearce baptized, his good friend JT Ready, who was involved in a recent mass murder in Arizona...

It is the brown person that must be feared. It is Latinos getting educated in Mexican American Studies that plan to “overthrow the US Government.” And it is we who are the cause of the financial meltdown. It has nothing to do with the billionaire bankers and their bailouts, but mythical welfare collectors who we all pictured as Black and Latino.

Just as with other mass murders, the media will focus on this for another 15 minutes and then it will be forgotten. Then another murderer will be spawned, and we will wonder once again why it happened.

Perhaps if Americans started looking within, and at all cultures and races, rather than focusing as Arizona does on the evilness of Ethnic Studies and bilingual education, or whether people living here peacefully for decades have the proper paperwork, then we might prevent future tragedies.

But this would require us to look beyond the illusion, the American flag or the crucifix in the house and focus more on what type of weapons your neighbor has and why. Their internet ramblings and conspiracy sites they visit may be more dangerous than a banned book by Rudy Acuña read in TUSD. This will never happen.

In the meantime whenever white men commit mass murders it is just a freak isolated incident, but when we look at other crime statistics for minorities the reason given is that it is something innate to their culture, to their family. It is those people.

And while Arizona and others continue to focus on minorities and immigrants, the next shooter will go unnoticed, and then we will repeat this cycle once again.

# UN Special Rapporteur probes solitary confinement of Russell Maroon Shoatz

by Theresa Shoatz [freemaroon@gmail.com](mailto:freemaroon@gmail.com) 267-456-7882

July 19, 2012: Philadelphia, PA - Leading human rights organizations and the family of Russell Maroon Shoatz received word last month that the United Nations' leading expert on torture, Juan Mendez, will submit an inquiry into Shoatz' ongoing solitary confinement at the State Correctional Institution (SCI) Greene in western Pennsylvania. Mendez, who is the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, sent a letter to a U.S. State Department representative in Geneva, Switzerland at the end of last month regarding the case of Shoatz, a 68-year-old Pennsylvania state prisoner who has been held in solitary confinement for 21 consecutive years.

The Special Rapporteur's inquiry was prompted by a complaint submitted by Shoatz' children on behalf of the International Campaign to Free Russell Maroon Shoatz (the Campaign) along with the Center for Constitutional Rights, National Lawyers Guild, and the Human Rights Coalition-Fed Up! Chapter. The complaint requested that the Special Rapporteur "immediately initiate a prompt and comprehensive investigation into the facts surrounding Shoatz' two decade stay in the solitary units administered by the the PA Department of Corrections.

Other co-signers to the complaint were represented the War Resisters League, the International Peace Research Association, National Jericho Movement, Malcolm X Commemoration Committee, Big Red Media, and Scientific Soul Sessions.

News of the Special Rapporteur's interest in this case came less than two weeks after a U.S. Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on solitary confinement in U.S. prisons prompted a wave of editorials denouncing the pervasive use of solitary confinement as torture. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette declared that it is "time to view solitary confinement as torture, comparing the practice of locking a person in a tiny cell for 23 hours per day for years on end to "a debased practice of totalitarian regimes," acknowledging that "criminals themselves are being held by criminal means."

PA State Representative Ron Waters has recently announced that PA state legislators will hold a similar hearing on solitary confinement on September 18. This is particularly noteworthy since the modern practice of solitary confinement originated in PA in the early 19th century. The Campaign holds the position that Shoatz is being tortured, and further that this torture

is being applied as persecution for his history as a political dissident and human rights defender inside and outside prison. "This conscience-shocking maltreatment constitutes an urgent human rights crisis," said Bret Grote of HRC-Fed Up!. "It is emblematic of the lawlessness that exists inside Pennsylvania and United States prisons." The international campaign to free Shoatz from solitary confinement was formally launched in May. In late June campaign representatives met with PA DOC Secretary John Wetzel to discuss Shoatz' case. The Secretary, who has repeatedly touted himself as a reformer in the press, stated that he would review the matter.

In 2011, the Special Rapporteur submitted a report on solitary confinement to the UN General Assembly that found that "any imposition of solitary confinement beyond 15 days constitutes torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment," and called on the international community to adopt such a standard and impose "an absolute prohibition on solitary confinement exceeding 15 consecutive days." In contrast to these recommendations, the state of Pennsylvania holds approximately 2,500 persons in solitary on any given day, countless hundreds for years at a time. A typical minimum sentence to solitary in the PA DOC consists of twice the UN Rapporteur's threshold of fifteen days.

"We will continue to push for this urgent human rights crisis into the public spotlight," said Theresa Shoatz. "As family members of a survivor of this torture, we know that its time for this hateful practice to end."

Supporters are being asked to contact SCI Greene's warden, Louis Folino, and PA DOC Secretary Wetzel and request that Russell Shoatz be placed in general population. They are also asking that people sign an online petition in support of the campaign: <http://www.change.org/petitions/pa-doc-secretary-john-wetzel-sci-greene-superintendent-louis-folino-release-russell-maroon-shoatz-from-solitary-confinement>

## FREE RUSSELL MAROON SHOATZ - FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!

PA DOC Secretary John Wetzel  
1920 Technology Parkway  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
PHONE: 717-728-4109

Superintendent Louis Folino, SCI Greene  
169 Progress Drive  
Waynesburg, PA 15370  
PHONE: 724-852-2902

Write Maroon: Russell Shoatz #AF-3855, SCI Greene, 175 Progress Dr. Waynesburg PA 15370

## Court Confirms Ten-Year Sentence for Lynne Stewart

By Jeff Mackler, Justice for Lynne Stewart

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit confirmed the 2010 decision of Federal District Court Judge John Koeltl to change his 28-month jail sentence for radical attorney and human rights activist, Lynne Stewart, to ten years.

Following federal prosecutors' appeal of what it considered a "lenient sentence," the Second Circuit all but ordered a compliant Koeltl to re-sentence Stewart, and harshly. Koeltl did just that, forcing Stewart to appeal to the very court that originally pressured Koeltl, in what was widely considered a "career decision" to do Stewart great harm.

Stewart was convicted at an outrageous 2005 New York frame-up trial on five counts of conspiracy to aid and abet and provide material support to terrorism. Her crime? Representing the "blind Sheik," the Egyptian cleric, Omar Abdel Rachman, who had also been convicted on triumphed-up conspiracy charges. Stewart issued a press release from her client stating his views on how Egyptian Muslim oppositionists should react to the ongoing crimes and murders of Egypt's then-President Hosni Mubarak.

Stewart was convicted of violating a vaguely-worded court-ordered SAM (Special Administrative Measure) that barred her from revealing her client's opinions. The penalty for such violations had traditionally been a mild slap on the wrist, perhaps a warning to not repeat the "violation" and to bar attorney-client visits for a few months. Barring an unlikely Supreme Court reversal, she will now serve her ten-year sentence with perhaps a one-year or ten percent reduction for "good behavior." She is presently incarcerated at FMC Carswell in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Free Lynne Stewart" must remain the rallying cry of all those who cherish civil liberties and democratic rights. Stewart, like so many others, but perhaps among the first tier, was a victim of the government-promoted malicious and murderous "war on terror" aimed at stifling all dissent and imprisoning the innocent to justify its wars against working people at home and against the oppressed and exploited across the globe.

Jeff Mackler is the West Coast Coordinator of the Lynne Stewart Defense Committee See <http://lynne-stewart.org/> for more information, statement from Lynne Stewart, and how to donate to help.

## The Revolution Betrayed: Egypt

[column written 6/15/12] © 2012 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

When Egyptians massed in Tahrir Square a year and ½ ago, denouncing the corrupt, Western-backed regime of Husni Mubarak, the West was faced with a quandary: How to retain Mubarakism without Mubarak?

After many months of parliamentary wrangling and electoral hijinks, the answer is now becoming clear. The military, with the backing of the courts, have essentially annulled parliament, and by so doing, restored the status quo ante – the rule of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) --

And like that – 'presto change-o' – Mubarakism without Mubarak.

Husni Mubarak was the chief servant of Western interests, and used his power to repress Egypt's dissidents and opponents of his regime. The Tahrir Square rebellions made his continued rule untenable.

But, if anything, he was the figurehead, fronting for the military-police-judicial-corporate complex. And, as such, he was dispensable.

So, the early June hearings that sentenced the aging ex ruler to life imprisonment, that cleared his sons, and cleared many of his regime's police and military for their immense brutality and violence against the people, cleared the way for this judicial coup of the popularly-elected parliament.

The judicial class in every society is always the most conservative, for their job is to preserve the status quo with the illusion of legality. Notice that this court, which has essentially banished parliament for violating election laws, never batted a judicial eyelash when Mubarek and his so-called Democratic Party stole elections with impunity – for decades. Is it mere coincidence that they also supported the candidacy of Ahmed Shafik – a Mubarak henchman?

The Mubarak years may've been years of monstrous brutality, torture and venality (with Western support, of course), but an entire infrastructure of repression benefited from the billions sent in from Washington and Bonn.

That privileged layer of Egyptian society wanted their position back, hence, the counter-revolution, with the blessings of the Mubarak-appointed courts.

Now, the real revolution begins – or its complete betrayal.

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About a new pamphlet:

### On The Need to Abolish the Prison System: An ethical indictment

By Steve Martinot [martinot4@gmail.com](mailto:martinot4@gmail.com)

This essay is an extended argument for the abolition of prisons. Its argument is made on ethical and political rather than sociological grounds. That is, it addresses the logic of prisons themselves as criminal, and thus a source of social violence, instead of simply demonstrating that prisons fail in their allegedly intended purpose. The institution of prisons, and the judicial machine that runs them, is inseparable from a criminality inherent in the structures of economic exploitation, the structures of racialization, an underlying commodification of personhood in the US, wars of aggression, and a general culture of contempt. The essay begins by establishing that imprisonment is an act of violence, and therefore a criminal act. If you are interested in reading this essay, please just respond to this announcement, and I will send it to you by attachment. I have also published it in pamphlet form. The pamphlet is plain in format, half-page in size, and 96 pages. It sells for \$3. If you order more than 5, the price drops to \$2 apiece. For instance, \$10 will get you five copies. My address is: Steve Martinot, PO Box 11842, Berkeley, CA 94712 or by email: [martinot4@gmail.com](mailto:martinot4@gmail.com)

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