

The Second Death of Philando

©2017 by Mumia Abu-Jamal [col. writ. 6/16/17]

The video is riveting. A woman is rapt with rage, her voice slow and controlled, as a cop points his gun at her, as her lover bleeds his life away beside her, and her baby daughter looks on in what can only be called wonder.

Philando Castile is dying as a discussion goes on, but it isn't with him, it's about him.

The cop's gun quivers and quakes, pointed at this woman, as the cop's voice also quivers and quakes, fear thick in every breath.

The cop, Jeronimo Yanez, has just killed Philando, and he attempts to explain why. "He was moving: he said, "He was reaching for a gun."

Castile was reaching, his girlfriend, Diamond Reynolds said, for his wallet, which held his driver's license and gun permit.

Why were they stopped? Yanez said a broken tail light. Just hours ago, a jury relieved Yanez of his anxiety by finding him not guilty of manslaughter!

A jury believed Yanez's tale that the Black man was a robbery suspect. The jury believed, once again, that a Black life had no intrinsic value, and that it could be treated like trash, burned up and discarded, like an old pair of shoes.

Philando Castile's name joins a list as long as life, sacrificed on the altar of white fear.

--©2017maj

Mumia's New Book just out from City Lights *Have Black Lives Ever Mattered?* By Mumia Abu-Jamal

In December 1981, Mumia Abu-Jamal was shot and beaten into unconsciousness by Philadelphia police. He awoke to find himself shackled to a hospital bed, accused of killing a cop. He was convicted and sentenced to death in a trial that Amnesty International has denounced as failing to meet the minimum standards of judicial fairness. In *Have Black Lives Ever Mattered?*, Mumia gives voice to the many people of color who have fallen to police bullets or racist abuse, and offers the post-Ferguson generation advice on how to address police abuse in the United States.

"In this brilliant, painful, factual and useful book, we see to whom our lives have not mattered: the profit driven Euro-Americans who enslaved and worked our ancestors to death within a few years, then murdered them and bought replacements."—Alice Walker, author of *The Color Purple*

"Prophet, critic, historian, witness . . . Mumia Abu-Jamal is one of the most insightful and consequential intellectuals of our era. These razor-sharp reflections on racialized state violence in America are the fire and the memory our movements need right now."—Robin D.G. Kelley, author of *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination*

"Mumia Abu-Jamal's clarion call for justice and defiance of state oppression has never dimmed, despite his decades of being shackled and caged. He is one of our nation's most valiant revolutionaries and courageous intellectuals."—Chris Hedges, Pulitzer-prize journalist, author of *Wages of Rebellion: The Moral Imperative of Revolt*

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Oscar Lopez Rivera Speaks to the United Nations [excerpts]



u.s. And there is one Puerto Rican woman, Ana Belén Montes, who chose to serve a just cause and go to prison rather than to do the dirty work of the u.s. Central Intelligence Agency. She is serving a 25 year sentence and battling cancer.

While the u.s. government alleges there aren't any political prisoners in its gulags or terrorists on its payroll, it claims there are many in countries it doesn't like. I am certain that the prisoners the u.s. government considers political would never entertain the idea of asking the u.s. government to release all the political prisoners in u.s. or in Guantánamo. And much less would they ask the u.s. to bring to justice the terrorists on its payroll who have killed independentistas in Puerto Rico or to stop practicing the crime of colonialism.

What has u.s. colonialism done to Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican people? Allow me to share with you some of the most deleterious problems I've observed since my arrival in my beloved homeland. There are over 5,000,000 Puerto Ricans in the diaspora, while less than 3,500,000 [live] in Puerto Rico. I found a Puerto Rico under the control of a Fiscal Control Board imposed by the u.s. government that has the power to dictate to the colonialists who help to administer the colony, what to do, especially when dealing with the payment of the \$72 billion debt Puerto Rico owes to the banks and hedge funds. And I have seen an accelerated gentrification process constructing condominiums costing one million dollars or more.

The poor people are displaced; only the rich and super rich can live there. In Culebra, Vieques and around the coast, where the beaches are the most beautiful, luxury building is overtaking the landscape. The colonialists give incentives to builders and buyers who are foreigners, and denies incentives to small businesses and small home owners. Gentrification is forcing poor people to move, and likely to emigrate. This will cause more depopulation in Puerto Rico.

Honorable members of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization: It's a great honor to stand before you and express my gratitude for every resolution this body has passed supporting Puerto Rico's right to be an independent and sovereign nation and the excarceration of the Puerto Rican political prisoners.

I'd also like to thank the Venezuelan citizens and their President Hugo Chávez Frías and President Nicolas Maduro, President Daniel Ortega and the citizens of Nicaragua, President Evo Morales and the citizens of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, President José "Pepe" Mujica and President Tabaré Vázquez and the citizens of Uruguay, President Rafael Correa and President Lenín Moreno and the citizens of Ecuador, President Fidel Castro Ruz and President Raúl Castro Ruz, the Five Cuban Heroes René González, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero and Fernando González Lloret and the citizens of Cuba for the support they have given to the just and noble cause of my beloved Puerto Rico's right to be an independent and sovereign nation.

The resolutions that this Committee passed were a fountain of strength for me. I would find in them precious expressions of solidarity and compassion, and it would make me feel that some day Puerto Rico would be decolonized.

I've spent five decades serving the most just and noble cause any Puerto Rican citizen can serve. It has been an act of love and my duty as a citizen. I say this to let people know that serving a just and noble cause has been the most liberating experience I've had, and in spite of the horrible things done to me in prison, I have come home with my head high, and my honor, my dignity and my spirit stronger than the day I was sent to prison.

Thanks to the support [of] this Committee and the support of hundreds of thousands of freedom and justice loving people of Puerto Rico, the diaspora and of many nations, there are no more Puerto Rican political prisoners of the u.s. government. Unfortunately, there are many other political prisoners inside the Prison Industrial Complex of the

It's been the goal of the u.s. government, since it invaded Puerto Rico, to depopulate it. By 1900 it was forcing Puerto Ricans to emigrate to Hawaii and the southwestern states. After World War II the u.s. government started another forced emigration wave. Land that poor Puerto Ricans were forced to abandon was used for military bases and luxury hotels. [Beginning] 17 years ago, more than a million Puerto Ricans moved to the diaspora, causing the biggest brain drain in Puerto Rico's history. If the School of Medicine in Puerto Rico graduates 100 doctors, 85% of them have to emigrate. There aren't jobs for most young professionals.

Imagine such a loss of population occurring in your countries. In Puerto Rico we see the negative effects of the last wave of emigrants. We are seeing a larger aging population that's becoming poorer with less medical and social services available. Their future looks bleak. Young people of reproductive age are leaving, and foreigners are buying condominiums in enclosed upper class communities.

What the Fiscal Control Board is making the colonialist administrators do is more worrisome. By August, 169 schools will be closed. Teachers will lose jobs, and communities will lose schools. The colonialists are pushing privatization plans [although] privatization has played a major role in bringing the economy to its worst conditions in Puerto Rico's history.

The future of the University of Puerto Rico [is threatened]. The Fiscal Control Board [plans] to take away half a billion dollars from the University's budget. It's looking for ways to raise tuition and to force the UPR to close some campuses and sell much of its property, especially land that it has been using for experiments. All the money taken away from public education will be used to fill the coffers of the banks and hedge funds. While Puerto Ricans will be more destitute, the colonialists and the banking industry will become richer. Thus Puerto Rico is being made poorer and depopulated of its native



population.

In spite of the fact that the future of Puerto Rico looks very bleak, many Puerto Ricans believe this is the best moment to wage an effective decolonizing process. We know that the majority of Puerto Ricans love Puerto Rico, our national identity, our culture, our language, and our origins. We see the potential that Puerto Rico has to become a strong nation and an asset to the economy of Caribbean and Latin American countries. We have the human resources and the other basic resources to transform Puerto Rico into the Edenic garden it has the potential of being.

Because this is such a moment, we are asking this Committee to take the issue of the decolonization of Puerto Rico to the General Assembly and ask it to fulfill its responsibilities to bring to an end the colonization of Puerto Rico by the u.s. government.

Colonialism is a crime against all of humanity. If the u.s. government is the nation of laws it claims to be, then it behooves it to decolonize Puerto Rico by adhering to the tenets of international law that prohibit the crime of colonialism.

I hope you will do whatever you can to bring to an end the colonial status of Puerto Rico, to help us make Puerto Rico the nation it has the potential of being, and to be part of the community of nations.

Thank you. *En resistencia y lucha siempre,*
Oscar López Rivera

June 26th: Resisting State Repression

by NoCARA (Northern California Anti-Racist Action)

In early March, the California Highway Patrol completed its investigation of the anti-Nazi shutdown that happened in Sacramento last June, forwarding a 2,000-page report to the DA's Office. Law enforcement is urging the DA to charge 106 individuals with 514 misdemeanors and 68 felonies over the stoppage of the white nationalist rally that happened nearly a year ago at the State Capitol.

While the intent here is to scare people, there's still a threat directed at our community. With this in mind, we'd like to offer these suggestions to prepare for the repression that the state has in store. This statement is intended for any anti-racist and anti-fascist protesters who attended the anti-Nazi demo on June 26, 2016, but it is also relevant to anyone in the same communities as those who attended.

If you were present at the counter-demonstration on June 26th or you're connecting to people who are, here are some steps you can take right now to prepare for potential repression:

First off, DO NOT speculate (especially online) about whether you or anyone else will be among those who are charged! Law enforcement often publicize concerning information (like they did when they turned their recommendations to press charges into a media spectacle) to stir things up in hopes of causing panic. The authorities very well may have no idea if you were involved, so don't give them any additional information! Don't announce to the world that you were there, and don't talk about anything you witnessed or participated in.

Clean up your internet presence. Any of us involved in anti-fascist organizing or socially connected to anti-fascist activists should do this, regardless of your involvement in the demo on June 26th. Anyone who

gets targeted, arrested or otherwise outed by the media as an anti-fascist protester will be heavily doxxed by the alt-right and like-minded groups.

This means that any information that can be gathered on you will be publicized and used against you - often with the intent of stalking, physical or psychological harm, or aiding law enforcement in prosecution. Malicious parties will often harass family members, affiliations, and work places of those they are looking to target. Taking preventative measures is the best way to protect yourself from these kinds of attacks.

For this reason, we recommend you - at the very least - take the time to scrub any mention of your address, phone number and place of employment from the internet. Often, this information is stored in online address books and lookup sites without your consent, and can be easily accessed by anyone who knows where to look. You should also lock down all of your social media accounts (ideally removing yourself from social media altogether) and remove any pictures of yourself that can be accessed publicly.

Limit the amount of information you post, and take time to make private or delete all online accounts you use or have used. This includes but is not limited to facebook, twitter, instagram, youtube, and yes, even that dating profile you made five years ago and totally forgot about. It's also a good idea to alert your family and close affiliates

From the Editor: For over a year, neo-nazi and other racist and reactionary elements, emboldened by the campaign, election and presidency of DJ Trump, have been increasing their visible street presence, use of deadly racist and reactionary violence, doxxing of opponents, fake antifa websites, facebook pages and twitter accounts and other forms of harassment, knifings and even murder. Opposition to this has been met with repressive state measures by police and prosecutors siding with the racists, and liberal apologists favoring nazi "free speech." *TTT* is reprinting here statements by NorCal and PDX comrades from the trenches about strategy, tactics and follow-up security measures. We invite further discussion.

Statement on Strategy and Tactics for June 4th Portland Rally

The event organizers would like to make a clear statement on the strategy and tactics of the June 4th event.

Wed, May 24, 2017

We believe that a broad coalition response is necessary to combat this particular extreme right alliance. The composition of this grouping, with explicit white nationalists embedded in a larger sphere of various crypto-fascist and far-right parties, makes this trickier to address than a simple "white power" march. We would like to focus on highlighting the overt white supremacists in attendance. Having reviewed the successes and failures across the country in addressing similar events, our view is that an indiscriminate approach attacking their entire event would not be strategic and plays into their hands in several important ways.

We are committed to the idea that people in our community should be able to participate in resisting this bigotry in whatever capacity they find appropriate. For this reason, we have chosen to make the primary focus of the event a rally at a separate location that is adjacent to the Alt Right rally.

We are unapologetic about the reality that fighting fascism at points requires physical militancy. Anti-fascism is, by nature, a form of self-defense: the goal of fascism is to exterminate the vast majority of human beings. However, we realize that not everyone is able to do that type of work for a wide variety of reasons. We cannot emphasize enough that a diverse range of other forms of resistance are also crucial. There are groups in attendance that will be prepared to handle physical opposition, and all those compelled are welcome to join in that effort. We want to be clear that we are by no means expecting the entire rally to want, or be able, to do that. We ask that all rally attendees respect the boundaries and safety of one another.

While we are not opposed to the tactic of property destruction, we would encourage other individuals and groups to seriously consider the strategic value of their chosen actions at this event. The climate in Portland and across the country right now is such that extremely heavy charges are being handed out for acts of vandalism that have little impact beyond the symbolic. We are by no means against people risking arrest in order to fight for justice, but as witnessed at May Day 2017, the Portland Police and District Attorney are more eager than ever to hand out these charges, and to enact violence against members of our community. While sometimes it is unavoidable to confront the state in order to achieve important goals,

to do the same. Here's an article on IGD that explains how to go about doing all this: <https://itsgoingdown.org/time-beef-defense-against-far-right-doxxing/>

If you do get charged with a felony, authorities may come to your home or work place to arrest you. Memorize the Sacramento National Lawyers Guild phone number (916) 500-4NLG(654). In the event that you or someone you know is arrested on charges stemming from the June 26 rally, call this number. The only way legal support and support from the wider movement can be mobilized is if we know you're in custody!

Get your personal affairs in order. The NLG has offered their limited capacity to help with legal issues, but it's up to you to prepare the rest of your life in the event that you abruptly find yourself in jail. Some things to consider include:

Memorize the number of a friend or family member who can serve as your emergency contact

Have a plan for who will take care of your children or pets

Have a plan for someone to call your job/school/etc. and what they will tell your boss/teacher etc

Have spare keys available to your support contact, especially to a car that might need to be moved.

Pay attention to your mailbox for court summons. If you're charged with a misdemeanor you will likely be informed of your court date by mail. Look out for this mail at any address you might have associated with you. Get in touch with the NLG if you receive a court summons. Do not personally call the district attorney to inquire about potential charges.

these decisions should be carefully thought out in terms of costs and benefits.

Putting ourselves at risk for mass arrests for very little tangible victory is not a sustainable model. It places an enormous burden on support networks to provide finances and labor. And in a world where doxxing is a primary weapon of our opponents, arrests can be hugely taxing long term even if charges are beaten.

Our message is "No Nazis in our city!" and we want to see tactics that align with that. Again, we ask that attendees respect a diversity of tactics.

St Paul Principles on Diversity of Tactics

1. Our solidarity will be based on respect for diversity of tactics and plans of other groups. As individuals and groups we are committed to treating each other as allies in the struggle.

2. The actions and tactics used will be organized to maintain

a separation of time or space to protect the autonomy and safety of the movement.

3. We realize that our detractors will work to divide us by inflaming and magnifying our tactical, strategic, personal and political disagreements. Therefore, any debates or criticisms must stay inside the movement to avoid any public or media denunciations of fellow activists or events.

4. We oppose any state repression of dissent, including surveillance, infiltration, disruption and violence. We agree not to assist law enforcement actions against activists and others.

We hope to see you with us at the rally on Sunday, June 4th!

In solidarity,

Rose City Antifa
Pacific Northwest Antifascist Workers Collective



Useful security measures to take whether you were in Sac'to or not.-Ed.

At no point should you talk to the police! Take some time to learn about the tricks and intimidation tactics police and other law enforcement use to get you to talk. We recommend practicing what you will say when in a police encounter, be it on the street, at your front door, while being interrogated in jail, or anywhere: "I have nothing to say to you." Do not say "I don't know" or be tempted to say things you think are harmless. Anything you say can be used against you or others. Please take some time to read this zine for helpful insights on police encounters: https://ccrjustice.org/sites/default/files/assets/files/CCR_If_An_Agent_Knocks.pdf

Whether or not you attended the anti-fascist rally in Sacramento on June 26, 2016 and whether or not you end up facing charges, we must all make the commitment to have each others' backs! In the likely event that prosecution is pursued, the accused will need a lot of support. Bail money, transportation to court appearances, court support, jail visits, ongoing pet/childcare, the list goes on. It is essential that we all take a stance of total refusal in cooperating with the state's investigations and targeting of people in our movements and communities. This includes refusing any questioning from police, taking care to not post incriminating information online, and making the commitment to resist grand juries by refusing to testify. By taking up a collective stance of noncooperation, we weaken the state's power against us and avoid preventable harm and repression from befalling ourselves and our comrades.

Please spread this post far and wide! Share it with your friends, organizations, housemates, and family. Have conversations about how you can prepare, support one another, and keep each other safe. By educating ourselves and being there for each other, we can strengthen our community's defense against state repression and the far right.



Multiple protests by antifa, liberals and others against an alt-right rally in Portland after brutal racist killings were met with tear gas, mass arrests by cops.

AFRICA SUBSIDIZES THE REST OF THE WORLD BY OVER \$40 BILLION A YEAR

Much more wealth is leaving the world's most impoverished continent than is entering it, according to new research into total financial flows into and out of Africa. The study finds that African countries receive \$161.6 billion in resources such as loans, remittances and aid each year, but lose \$203 billion through factors including tax avoidance, debt payments and resource extraction, creating an annual net deficit of over \$40 billion. [Ed.: Low estimate, because 'remittances' is the money from poor African migrants in the diaspora back to their homelands, not a wealth transfer from the elite.]

The research shows that according to the most recent figures available in 2015:

African countries received around \$19 billion in aid but over three times that much (\$68 billion) was taken out in capital flight, mainly by multinational companies deliberately misreporting the value of their imports or exports to reduce tax.

African governments received \$32.8 billion in loans but paid \$18 billion in debt interest and principal payments, with the overall level of debt rising rapidly.

An estimated \$29 billion a year was stolen from Africa in illegal logging, fishing and the trade in wildlife and plants.

Tim Jones, economist from the Jubilee Debt Campaign, said: "The African continent is rich, but the rest of the world profits from its wealth through unjust debt payments, multinational company profits and hiding proceeds from tax avoidance and corruption."

Aisha Dodwell, a campaigner with Global Justice Now said: "There's such a powerful narrative in Western societies that Africa is poor and that it needs our help.

Editor's Note: Today, as much as ever, stolen land, physical genocide, and the importation of people as labor are the principal underlying bases of capital and the source of the great wealth disproportionately accumulated by the ruling class. As never before, racialized capitalism/colonialism means that Africa is the wealthiest continent in terms of resources and the poorest in per capita income. The peoples of Africa, Latin America and elsewhere in the "Third World" are forced to flee for their lives by imperialist wars, displacement and 'unequal exchange,' dispossessed of their homelands and exploited and repressed in the metropolises. Anti-racists and anti-fascists must take these global realities of white supremacist war and exploitation into account in order to play an effective role in uprooting and overturning imperialism.

For a World Without Borders

This is the final statement of the World Conference of the Peoples For a World Without Borders towards Universal Citizenship, which took place at Tiquipaya, 400 kilometers from La Paz between Tuesday and Wednesday.

"Social movements, citizens of the world, gathered in Tiquipaya, after hearing the testimonies of migrants and refugees and debating collectively from our historical memory and the plurality of our identities, we approved the following Statement, to manifest our vision and proposals to the States and the International Community in relation to the so called Migrational Crisis.

We, the peoples of the world are aware of the necessity to keep pushing with greater strength to a new world order, with the following characteristics:

Complementarity, equity and solidarity relationships among persons and peoples;

Recognition of universal access to basic services and fundamental rights, which can't be an object of profit and private speculation;

Wider citizen participation in elaborating and implementing public policies transcending oligarchies, dynasties, monarchies and other political hierarchies;

A new international financial architecture, where multilateral organisms do not exist at the service of the transnational capital, that guarantees the social ownership of natural resources.

Living together harmoniously with Mother Earth and respect of its rights; assuming that nature can live without human beings, but human beings cannot live without her, or by violating her rights and destroying the habitat.

The construction of a true lasting peace, not just the absence of bellicose conflicts, but overcoming structural violence through equal access to wealth and development opportunities.

We have verified as main causes of this crisis the wars and military interventions, climate change and the huge economic asymmetries between States and within them. These destructive situations have their origin in the dominant world order, which generates violence, promotes inequalities, and destroys Mother Earth while searching for profit and resources. The migratory crisis is one of the manifestations of the crisis of neoliberal globalization.

This research shows that what African countries really need is for the rest of the world to stop systematically looting them. While the form of colonial plunder may have changed over time, its basic nature remains unchanged."

Martin Drewry, director of Health Poverty Action said: "To end poverty we need to focus our efforts on preventing the policies and practices that are causing it. That means we need to stop our tax havens facilitating the theft of billions, clamp down on illegal activities and compensate African countries for the impact of climate change that they did not cause. "

Bernard Adaba, policy analyst with ISODEC in Ghana said: "'Development' is a lost cause in Africa while we are hemorrhaging billions every year to extractive industries, western tax havens and illegal logging and fishing. Some serious structural changes need to be made to promote economic policies that enable African countries to best serve the needs of their people rather than simply being cash cows for Western corporations and governments. The bleeding of Africa must stop!"

The report *Honest Accounts 2017: How the world profits from Africa's wealth*, published by a coalition of UK and African organizations, including Global Justice Now, Health Poverty Action and Jubilee Debt Campaign, makes a series of recommendations as to how the system extracting wealth from Africa could be dismantled. Read the report at http://www.globaljustice.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/resources/honest_accounts_2017_web_final.pdf

These recommendations include promoting economic policies that lead to equitable development, preventing



companies with subsidiaries based in tax havens from operating in African countries, and transforming aid into a process that genuinely benefits Africa.

The research covers the 47 countries classified as 'sub-Saharan Africa' by the World Bank. The research was published by Global Justice Now, Health Poverty Action, Jubilee Debt Campaign, Uganda Debt Network, Budget Advocacy Network, Afrika and Friends Networking Open Forum, Integrated Social Development Centre, Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development, Groundwork and People's Health Movement.

Human mobility is a right rooted in the essence of equality of human beings. However, currently, it does not respond to a volunteer decision of the peoples but to the extremes of forced migration. To the pain of uprooting are added the situations of injustice, exclusion, discrimination and exploitation that the persons in transit suffer, and of course the attacks on their dignity, their human rights, and their own lives which they suffer from in the receptor countries.

The hegemonic discourse, dominated by multinational media corporations, promotes a negative vision of migrants, hiding the contributions they make in economic, demographic and socio cultural terms to the receptor countries. We look with great concern on the advance of neocolonial, intolerant and xenophobic positions which infringe on cooperation between Peoples and constitute a menace to global peace. Paradoxically, these positions are sustained from the centers of global power, those mainly responsible for structural violence, global inequality and climate change, to the detriment of the creditors of the social and environmental debt: the poor peoples.

This is why we promote the following proposals to collapse the walls that divide us and build a Universal Citizenship, devoted to the right of all to enjoy in plenitude the same rights, for a good life for humanity.

To overcome the hegemonic perspective of migratory policy which elevates "regular, safe and orderly" administration of migrations, with a humanist vision that allows to "receive, protect, promote and integrate" the migratory people.

To reject the criminalization of migrants through a false focus on security and control. In particular, we demand the elimination of the "migrant detainee centers".

To destroy physical walls that divide the peoples; invisible legal walls which pursue and criminalize; mental walls which use fear, discrimination and xenophobia to divide ourselves among brothers. In the same way, we denounce the media that stigmatize or disqualify migrants, and we aim to promote the creation of alternative media channels.

To create a World Public Defender of the Peoples for the Rights of migrants, refugees and trafficking victim persons, among others, which promotes free mobility and human rights. We request the people and government of Bolivia, to manage the creation of a secretary of coordination to make effective the fulfillment of the resolutions in this Statement of the World Conference of the Peoples.

To demand of the governments the creation or strengthening of Regional Citizenships that allow inter regional movement and the plain exercise of their rights, as a first step towards a universal citizenship.

To demand that the public funds spent on war and migrant criminalization, be used for the creation of integration programs, which guarantee the exercise of migrant people's rights.

To push local policies which allow more integrative cities and societies, where migrants are effectively included in the society, with access to housing, health care, education, social security, under the principles of complementarity, solidarity, brotherhood and diversity.

To convoke all the governments of the world to fight jointly against the criminal networks that traffic human beings, and declare human trafficking and slave trafficking as crimes against humanity.

To update, strengthen and advance the multilateral system and its international tools related to migrants, refugees and their families, and in particular:

a) the "International Convention on rights protection of all migrant workers and their families", not yet ratified by any Northern migrant receptor country.

b) the Convention on the Statute of ACNUR Refugees, adding new conceptions that refer to displaced persons and climate refugees.

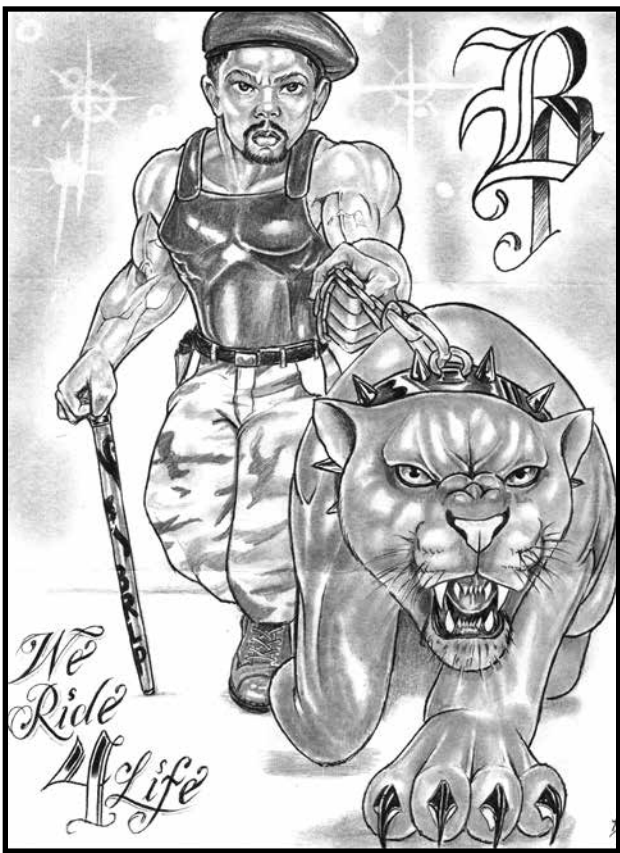
c) to participate in negotiating the World Pact to be celebrated in 2018 at the UN

d) proclaiming in the General Assembly the International Decade for a World Without Borders towards Universal Citizenship.

To overcome the "rigid frontiers" tactic, for a vision that understands frontiers as bridges of integration for the unity among peoples and welcoming of refugees, where the struggle against transnational organized crime is faced from a cooperation context between states.

To boost the right living in the places of origin of the migrant people, so that mobility is voluntary and not forced as an effect of poverty, violence and climate change, denouncing the irresponsible actions of the multinational companies, and applying sanctions to those that impinge against the permanency of the families in their place of origin.

To promote popular mobilization on a world scale, so that the inalienable character of the rights of persons in transit is recognized in intra- and inter-national instances, to overcome the walls, blockades and interventions, that the powerful raise unilaterally to perpetuate inequality and social injustice.



THE BLACK RIDERS CREED

(When your time comes to die for Black and oppressed people, be not like those whose hearts are filled with fear of death! Sing your song and die like a hero going home!)

I AM A BLACK RIDER!!

I am a soldier and a member of a team!!

I am a servant of the people, and live with revolutionary values!!

I will always place the mission First!!

I will never accept defeat!!

I will never quit!!!!

I am disciplined physically, mentally tough, trained and proficient in the way of a warrior!!

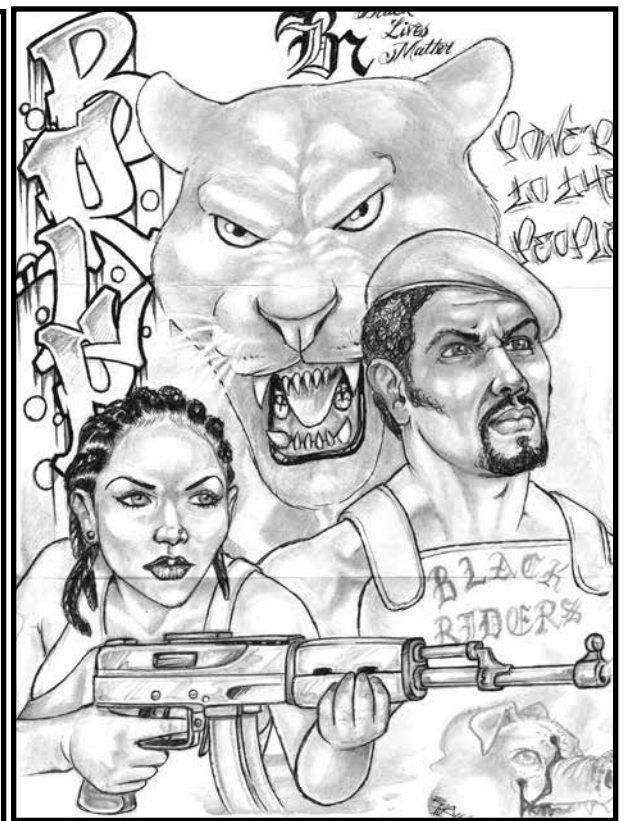
I always maintain my arms, equipment, and self!!

I stand ready to deploy, engage and destroy the enemies

of the party and the people!!

I am a black Freedom Fighter.

I am a BLACK RIDER!!



The Black Riders - Break the Lock Prison Education and Communication program

has sponsored a new Black Book Draw, that we called for in the last issue of *Turning The Tide*. The outstanding winner is Comrade R. Davis out of a Texas Prison. He is also responsible for the hard-line artwork on this page. He will receive a surprise revolutionary book this month. We thank him for his revolutionary commitment!
Black Power! All Power to the People!

Contact Info for the Black Riders Liberation Party

Join Now! You can reach the **Black Riders Liberation Party, New Generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense**, at PO Box 8297, Los Angeles CA 90008, blackriders1996@gmail.com or by calling 601-557-2757 (BRLP), or on facebook, Black-Riders-Liberation-Party, instagram: blackriders1996 and twitter: @blackriders1996

DEMS BETRAY PEOPLE AGAIN - SCUTTLE CA SINGLE PAYER HEALTHCARE



Protesters rally at office of CA Assembly Speaker Rendon after he cancelled a vote on Single Payer healthcare for all Californians. Photo by Bil Eisen

On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide & ARA-LA/PART

You can find archives of *Turning the Tide* at www.antiracist.org that go back more than 10 years.

In addition, there is facebook.com/tideturning, and you can follow @ara_losangeles on Twitter, or the De-Colonize LA! blog at ara-la.tumblr.com.

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Postage alone for this issue comes to nearly \$1000. We've increased the frequency of *Turning The Tide*, but we can only do it with your support. If you're a prisoner and can send stamps or get someone outside the walls to subsidize your subscription, please do so. If you work with an info shop or other zine or record distro, please consider ordering a bundle of TTT to distribute; \$5 will get you 20 copies.

And check out our 100X100 campaign below.

If you live in L.A. or nearby, we can come to house meetings to speak and collect donations for the paper.

Email antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com or call 323-636-7388.

100X100 Campaign to Increase Publication Frequency of Turning the Tide

Over its 26+ year publishing history, *TTT* has been published in magazine format, as a 24-page tabloid, and from time to time on a bi-monthly basis, six issues a year. For the last few years, economic necessity has dictated that we print four 8-page issues a year. Now, to restore bi-monthly publication, we have launched a fund-raising campaign we've dubbed "100X100."

We are looking for one hundred people who will donate \$100 a year, or \$10/mo, to make it possible for *TTT* to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing nearly 2000 copies of each issue into the prisons. You can donate online at <http://gofundme.com/eugzgg>.

Turning the Tide doesn't print itself, or mail itself. Some prisoners who get the paper contribute a few stamps; their contribution more often comes by writing articles, letters and poems or sending in drawings. Often, they pass the copy of *TTT* that they received from hand to hand, cell to cell, or they send in the names and addresses of half-a-dozen or more other prisoners. **Prisoners, if you can find donors or subscribers outside prison to subsidize your sub, that would help a lot.**

If you'd like to see *Turning the Tide* more frequently, if you want to contribute to breaking down the walls of isolation and separation imposed by the prison system, please contribute. If you can't manage \$100 all at once, you could donate \$10 a month. But any donation you make can

help. Postage costs for a single issue of *TTT* are almost \$1000 and climbing. If you can't donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to your Facebook friends, Twitter followers, and email contacts. Everything helps.

The future of *Turning the Tide* is in your hands. Now, while you're thinking about it, go to:

<http://gofundme.com/eugzgg>

and donate. Then share it with your contacts. With your help, *Turning the Tide* can step up to the "urgency of now" -- the necessity for radical organizing, educating and analyzing to respond to the growing crisis of the Empire -- endless war, police terror with impunity, mass incarceration, colonialism, ecological devastation that will shortly become irreversible.

If you think *TTT* is a useful tool in the struggle for people's power and a new world, please donate today. If you wish, you can also just send cash, check or money order to **Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.**

Racism in Hollywood: Discrimination Against Black People and Women in “Below-the-Line” Employment

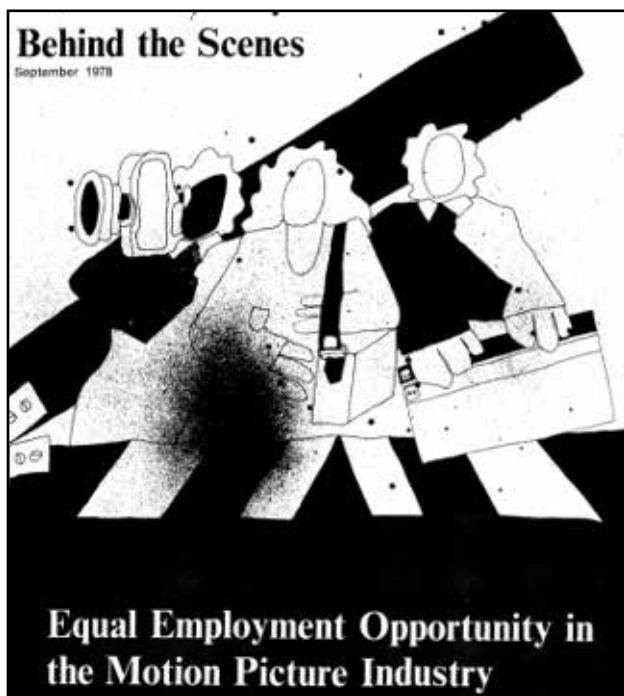
by A. Fellow Worker

Hollywood is often referred to as an industry, or company, town. The city and county of Los Angeles offer tax breaks, services and subsidies to attract TV, advertising and film production work. The bulk of such employment, reflected in the long list of credits that roll for minutes at the end of a film, are “below-the-line,” -- not the relatively few actors or directors, but the cinematographers, grips, wardrobe and cosmetics people, carpenters and electricians who do the hard work that puts the magic on the screen. Unfortunately, despite these taxpayer investments, employment in these areas is biased towards white men.

Last March, the UCLA institute for Research on Labor and Employment released a report titled ‘Ready to Work: Uprooting Inequity – Black Workers in Los Angeles County.’ Quoting the research: “The unemployment, underpayment, and under representation of Black workers in professional jobs are direct effects of discrimination. ...Discrimination has created a crisis for Black workers.” This is certainly true of below-the-line employment in ‘Hollywood.’

Employment discrimination in LA has a long, sordid history. The great migration of Blacks out of the South was fueled in large part by jobs in the war industries, yet despite labor shortages in LA, African Americans were often excluded from those jobs. In 1969, EEOC head Clifford Alexander held hearings in LA for industries with demonstrated records of violating Title VII by not supporting Equal Employment Opportunity. “The industries ...chosen were those with the greatest discrepancy between minority workforce numbers available in the area and their representation in a given industry — we tried to isolate some that were particularly venal...” explained Alexander in an interview archived at the LBJ Library Oral History Collection. The film industry was singled out as venal enough to be referred to the Justice Dept.

“After conducting its own investigation, the DOJ ...had reasonable grounds to conclude that a pattern and practice of employment discrimination in the motion picture industry existed in violation of Section 707 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,” according to *Behind the Scenes*, Report of the CA Advisory Committee to the US Commission on Civil Rights, Sept. 1978. “Sporadic, weak enforcement efforts have allowed the industry to shirk its (Equal Employment) responsibilities....” Promises had been made in an industry Consent Agreement with the DOJ in 1970, but never fulfilled. People of color and women are still excluded from or under-employed below-the-line in the film and television industry.



The Bunche Center at UCLA has produced a yearly report card on Hollywood hiring disparities. Prof. Stacey Smith at USC’s School of Journalism also produces an excellent report on the industry. Both reports are cited in the efforts for industry change in the #Oscarssowhite conversation. But they fail to survey the below-the-line workplace.

On May 12, 2015 ACLU attorney Melissa Goodman wrote to Anna Y. Park, Regional Attorney and Rosa Viramontes, Director of EEOC LA District Office. “...We have learned that women are systematically excluded from or underemployed in directing jobs as a result of ineffective programs within the industry to increase hiring of women and people of color...; lack of enforcement of internal industry agreements ...” The ACLU attorney concluded, “These ‘gross statistical disparities’ are of the magnitude that courts have held ... constitute prima facie proof of a pattern or practice of discrimination. ...”

The conversation between ACLU and EEOC is about gender, not race – and doesn’t look below-the line. But the conversation is expanding. A few quotes from the August 9, 2016 Variety. “For a business that often prides itself on progressive values, it’s telling that discrimination and racism are facts of life for minorities in so-called below-the-line jobs, according to a number of artisans who were interviewed by Variety.”

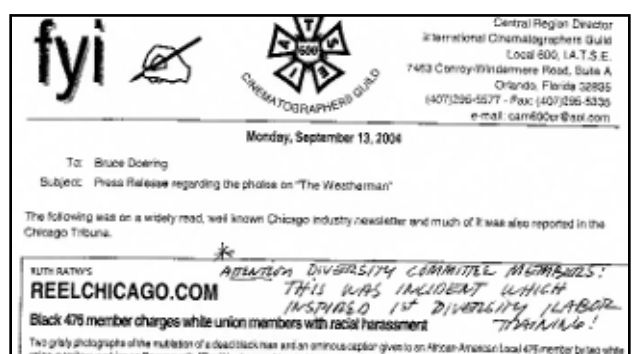
“It’s really a hidden segregation that happens in the industry,” says “Selma” director Ava DuVernay, who notes that in her previous work as a publicist she was often the only African-American on a crew. “What #OscarsSoWhite did not address ... is the racial divide that exists for people of color working in crafts such as art direction, costume design, editing, sound, and cinematography.” quoted in ‘Artisans So White’ <http://variety.com/2016/artisans/features/below-the-line-diversity-racism-artisans-1201833014/>

The Variety article starts to illuminate explicit bias, prejudice and racial hostility and for those who do find work in the industry. Visual effects supervisor Edward L. Williams, who won an Emmy for “Star Trek: Voyager told variety some DPs (Directors of Photography) have openly challenged his skills before they’ve even worked with him. “They’ve been quite blunt with it,” Williams says. “[They’ll say,] ‘The only reason you got this position is because they wanted to hire somebody black.’”

Cinematographers Guild President Steven Poster claims that progress among DPs and camera assistants is obvious. “You just look at crews and you see that there’s more diversity.” People once ‘knew’ the world was flat by looking at it. Today we know we need audits and a more accurate count to measure change. Also, while it’s important to increase “inclusion”, there’s a deaf ear to creating safe, effective channels for workers to report hostile and adverse working conditions.

The refusal to hold transgressors accountable is seen in the case of lynching photos that were handed to an African American working on the film ‘The Weatherman.’ As one report stated: “...Neither white union member was concerned about reprimands nor more dire consequences after they achieved the desired reaction from the victim...” such inadequate responses to complaints of racist harassment is systemic.

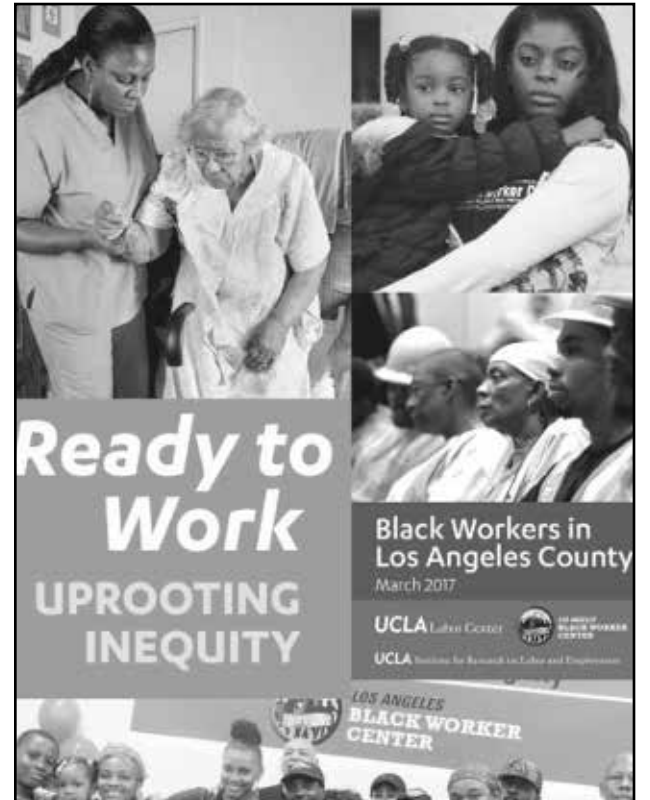
What is organized labor doing about racism in Hollywood? The AFL-CIO declares: “We resolve to ... vanquish oppression, privation and cruelty in all their



forms; bringing fairness and dignity to the workplace and securing social equity in the Nation.” The micro-aggressions hurled at VFX Supervisor Williams, lynching photos, nooses and cross burning threats demand action to defend workplace dignity. But it doesn’t seem to be forthcoming. The 1978 Behind the Scenes report state: “The Association of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which included more than 80 production companies, and IATSE-International and nine of its locals denied the existence of discrimination or discriminatory conduct.” Remarkably the Variety article tells us that the industry suffers from the same problem ... 40 years later. “Some below-the-line [union] reps Variety spoke with seemed oblivious to the experiences of their own clients, saying they didn’t think race was a pressing issue...” - Kyle Bean, Variety Aug. 9, 2016...

Given that the city and state give the film industry tax incentives to promote local production, it’s more than appropriate for them to re-examine the 1970 Consent Agreement and how its goals comport with what Variety’s Kyle Bean calls “discrimination and racism as facts of life for minorities,” and the underutilization of people of color, women, LGBT, religious minorities, older workers and those with ability challenges.

On June 28, 2017, the *LA Weekly* published “20 Ideas To Fix L.A.” One idea was to peg the film tax credits to below-the-line diversity. Assemblyman Sebastian Ridley-Thomas stated: “Underrepresentation of women



and people of color persists at all levels in the film and television industry...Tax credits must promote equality, not heighten inequity.”

The film tax credits offer an excellent opportunity for independent Civil Rights organizations to begin a fact based, rational and honest dialog about Equal Employment goals with industry professionals, the unions, studios, industry associations and the legislature that are implementing AB 1839 (the tax credit bill). Another possibility for changing the discriminatory status quo is implementing SB 491, the Fair Employment and Housing Enforcement Act of 2017 by State Senator Steve Bradford. Protections against employment discrimination were established over 50 years ago, but work-related discrimination is rampant because tough-on-paper laws haven’t been effectively enforced. Now, even the most basic protections under federal law could erode under the Trump administration.

Looking at patterns of employment in the entertainment industry, it’s hard to dispute that the EEOC, the NLRB and even the California DFEH are as effective at upholding Title VII protections in Hollywood as the EPA was in protecting safe water in Flint Michigan. A foundational LA industry, Hollywood has long been a source of good jobs. See David Robb’s article *Film & TV Industry Generates \$121 Billion in Wages*, <http://deadline.com/2016/09/mpaa-u-s-film-tv-industry-generates-121-billion-in-wages-1201812945/>. Those are billions that African Americans, other people of color and women are excluded from by illegal, discriminatory employment patterns and practices. SB491 would clarify that municipal governments aren’t restricted from enforcing California’s Unruh civil rights act that

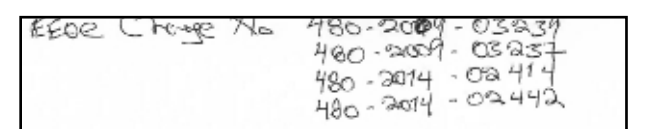


Photo of noose found on Hollywood worker’s lens cart.

outlaws discrimination in housing or employment based on a person’s race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, age, or sexual orientation. Contact Assembly Member Sebastian Ridley Thomas and express your support that the film tax credits include a thorough review of discriminatory employment practices and common sense resolutions. Support Sen. Bradford’s SB 491. Contact info@blackworkercenter.org. The senator’s office is 916-651-4035. Staffer: Brandon Seto <Brandon.Seto@sen.ca.gov>. Reach the author at <peoplesreview1970@gmail.com>.

Black Power Takes Root in the Heart of Dixie

by Marisa Anne Day

<https://indypendent.org/2017/06/black-power-takes-root-in-the-heart-of-dixie/> (excerpts)

Jackson is the capital and largest city in Mississippi. Surrounded by prosperous white suburbs, it's more than 80% Black and overwhelmingly working-class. "If you're making \$10 an hour here you're doing damn good," says Kali Akuno, who for 20 years has been a driving force in the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement (MXGM), and an organizer of the 3-year-old Cooperation Jackson, a community organizing hub intent on radically changing business as usual in Jackson and creating a model for local movements in the US and around the world.

The movement for Black self-determination has roots in Mississippi that date back to the 1970s. After decades of base building by MXGM and others, radical lawyer Chokwe Lumumba was elected mayor of Jackson in 2013 only to die less than eight months into his first term in office. In May, his son Chokwe Antar Lumumba won the primary on a platform of food sovereignty, zero waste and creating a solidarity economy. After an overwhelming victory in the general election, he's the next mayor of Jackson.

When he takes office, he'll face a hostile white business elite and a Republican-controlled legislature that will try to stymie him. Akuno is one of Antar's closest advisors. He recently spoke with The Independent about the challenges that lie ahead and the Jackson movement's enduring source of strength.

Marisa Anne Day: What do you hope to achieve?

Kali Akuno: The construction of economic democracy from the ground up, transformation of the economy and the social relationships that make us human. That's not something we can do alone.

We hope to inspire others who want to pick this up. We want to continue drawing from eclectic sources of inspiration — Mondragon worker cooperatives in Spain, Zapatistas, cooperatives in the South going back 200 years in the Black community, projects in the early days of Tanzania, Algeria, Guyana. The first step for Cooperation Jackson is to build a vibrant solidarity economy in Jackson that can form a stepping-stone to economic democracy.

Q: What's the significance of this victory for organizing in the US?

A: It demonstrates the left can win electoral victories, make gains in a struggle to control the means of production. It has a broader significance with the election of Trump. Our victory in Jackson points to a way forward. Take heart, all is not doom and gloom. We can organize to fight back and counter these reactionary forces. If we do our work right we can start dictating the social momentum and rearticulate the fundamental norms of society.

What the country is facing with this neo-Confederate neo-fascist regime, we've been living with in Mississippi for some time. Black, Indigenous, Latino communities have been figuring out ways to survive [and] push back. Our victory highlights what's possible when you resist — and what type of work it takes: long term, patient, strategic base-building, which we've been concentrating on here for 40 years.

Q: A lot of movements talk about empowering "the people" but after they win elections fail to come through. How will you resist that?

A: Our beliefs alone are not enough to safeguard us against



right drift. An effective counterweight is having political organization with multiple ideologies within it. Having that diversity was a saving grace because you had folks, especially from anarchist tendencies, suspicious about going into government. A lively debate and struggle was one safeguard.

The Jackson People's Assembly is the dominant accountability mechanism. Direct engagement is where the assembly has its strength and can apply pressure on Chokwe Antar or anybody else. The People's Assembly was built to be a dual power institution, able to shape society without government assistance.

Q: How do you maintain buy-in beyond ideological divides?

A: We don't engage with folks on the basis of "you have to believe what I believe to work with me." That takes a backseat to "I'm here because an injury has been inflicted on you or on our community; let's figure out a collective way we can address this issue." People find out what you believe through your practice first and foremost, and then your statement of why you are engaged in the struggle afterward.

In Mississippi, the nature of white supremacy helps keep a focus in the community. I might differ with you about this belief or that strategy but having to confront people who are in the Klan, gives people a clear orientation: We are in a struggle and my contributions to it are critical to my own survival.

This context is why the radical message of a Chokwe Lumumba or a Chokwe Antar resonates in a place that's deeply conservative and religious, why many people who don't share their ideology trust them. The perception in the Black community is: "They've been consistent fighters against white supremacy and exploitation. I know what sacrifices they and MXGM have made by standing up to the Klan."

We work on that common ground and over time we've won a lot of people over who wouldn't necessarily use that rhetoric but would say, I am for democracy in the workplace. You see a gradual movement and a broader adoption of these ideas and principles.

Q: What's the situation in Jackson you're stepping into? What forces in Mississippi are aligned against you?

A: The primary opposition is the Greater Jackson Chamber of Commerce. It's dominated by white businessmen, almost none of whom live in Jackson. They live in the white suburbs constructed to accommodate white flight. A large portion of Jackson's businesses remain in the hands of a small white elite.

Jackson is over 80% Black. Most of that is Black working class, including sectors where the real unemployment rate is closer to 50% of the adults. Wages are extremely low; if you're making \$10 an hour here you're doing damn good. The Black community can put people in office but their ability to govern can be constrained because the economic base is controlled elsewhere. One of the threats is if you elect Chokwe Antar, all these white-owned businesses are going to leave town. That shrinks the tax base, the revenues. That's pointing a gun at the city and saying you have to go this way for the economy not to collapse. For the community to consistently vote in a way that says "Yeah, I know that gun is to my head and I'm going to vote this way anyway" says a lot.

The Chamber isn't making idle threats. They plan to gentrify the city, displace the Black working class, because if they can change the population they can eliminate a radical like Chokwe Antar from being elected.

Q: How do cooperative networks provide counterweight against those forces?

A: The bedrock for us is food sovereignty. Hunger will no longer be a weapon against the working class. We will utilize all the vacant land around the city. We can create supply chains based on our own principles rather than being totally reliant on "market forces."

We'll construct cooperative enterprises, from food processing to non-carbon based distribution, bikes and electric vehicles, to lessen the carbon footprint. Going to zero emissions and zero waste will accomplish several goals at once: sustainability, creating jobs, a better quality of life and ultimately more self-determination and self-reliance within the community. The base is starting with what's available to us, land, addressing a concrete need, food, and from there building out the solidarity economy.

Q: How can people engage with what you are doing from outside of Jackson?

A: Doing this work takes resources. Our sustainer network annually covers one-fourth of the cost. Friends of Cooperation Jackson chapters build relationships of solidarity. The most concrete way that folks can help is to build Cooperation New Yorks, like-minded organizations. Organizing in your own community will help us more than anything else.

For more, see www.cooperationjackson.org.

In order to abolish slavery in Amerika we must acknowledge that it still exists!

By Keith "Malik" Washington, Chief Spokespersyn of End Prison Slavery in Texas Movement

Peace and blessings sisters and brothers!

We can't continue to make conscious decisions that ignore our past because those thoughts make us feel uncomfortable. Slavery happened in Amerika and is still happening, especially in Amerika's numerous slave camps and gulags most call prisons.

I studied the Presidency of Barack Obama closely and noticed he constantly embraced an elitist or exceptionalist narrative when speaking of the US. Obama would give "the world" the impression the US was a bastion of humyn and civil rights protections. When in reality the opposite is true — Amerika is just better at covering up the abuse and mistreatment of its citizens.

In an interview by journalist Kamala Kelkar of the PBS Newshour Weekend, my friend and humyn rights attorney Ollie Jefferson said: "We have human rights violations here as much as in other countries." Jefferson has spent most of her legal career working with immigrants so she's very familiar with the criminal justice system in Amerika.

When we speak of prison slavery in Amerika, we think of forced labor and involuntary servitude. However, there are other elements of slavery — the unsavory and despicable elements present in and out of Amerika's prisons.

The torture, sex slaves, the indentured servants, the political prisoners, the so-called eco-terrorists and the framed-up Muslims right here in Amerika.

The state of Texas hates it when I get to beating my 'drum' because the oppressors know there's nothing they can do to silence me. The tactic they've embraced is censorship claiming my words represent security threat information. I expose human and civil rights abuses, I engage in political and legal discourse in hopes of raising the public's awareness.

Let's take a look behind the iron curtain and allow me to introduce TX prisoner Omar Valdez. Omar has served approximately 24 years and 6 months on a 25 year sentence! Omar has spent approximately 22 years in solitary confinement right here on the Eastham Unit in Lovelady, Texas. Omar has been denied parole over 11 times! Omar has spent years not incurring disciplinary infractions hoping the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles would give him a chance to rebuild his life. They didn't!

Prison Legal News had a front page article in February 2017

titled "TRAPPED: California wastes tens of millions of dollars a year keeping people in prison long after they've been rehabilitated — denying parole for arbitrary reasons and destroying lives in the process" by Sam Levin of the East Bay Express. I want you to replace California with Texas and listen to Omar's words and ask yourself, "Can't we do better?"

"Mr Malik, greetings, it's a pleasure to meet you. I appreciate you and folks like you who get out there on the 'front lines' fighting the good fight.

My name is Omar B. Valdez, TDC# 726686. I reside on the Eastham Unit located in Lovelady, Texas. I've resided here for the past 2 ½ decades! I'm serving a 25 year aggravated sentence for the charge of murder. I've been locked up since October 3rd, 1992. I arrived here on Eastham Unit on March 4th, 1996, and I've been here ever since! I have never left this unit. I am in Administrative Segregation due to my previous gang affiliation. I have been a non-active ex-gang member since 2002. I made this choice in order to better my life and increase my chances of making parole. This did not help. TDCJ ignored my communications, my pleas fell on deaf ears!

I came to the realization long ago that no matter how good I did, it would have absolutely no bearing on my freedom. Nevertheless, I've continued to keep a very low profile and follow the rules. I've gone years at a time without incurring any disciplinary infractions. Sometimes 5, 6, even 10 years with not one infraction, to no avail. I received denial after denial after denial.

On January 30, 2017, I came up for parole for the 12th and final time. On March 10, 2017, I received my answer — parole denied! Well, now it's June 2017 and I discharge my 25 year sentence on October 7, 2017, just a few months away.

TDCJ has given me no education, no job skills, nothing except solitary confinement and torture for over 22 years here on Eastham Unit.

There are limited resources we have back here in Ad-Seg. Unless you have money to pay for outside college courses, you are out of there. I would have thought that by now, after all these years, TDCJ and the State of Texas would have come up with some really incredible in-cell programming for us — they haven't! Many in free-world society are not aware of what we endure in

these places. Brother Malik has only been here a few months, but I've been here for over 20 years to please allow me to enlighten you.

I understand this is prison and I've paid my dues for my crime, but does that justify me being subjected to live in unsanitary conditions? Rats and roaches all over the place, having to drink this contaminated water. At one point a couple of years back we were told TDCJ didn't monitor the water properly for over a year.

Eastham Administrators put together an Inter-Office Communication which said "if you're experiencing a negative reaction, put in a sick call, etc" Imagine that, I said — they wait a whole year before informing us? Then they frequently post "boil notices" - how do we do that in our cells? So what are we to do? Go without drinking water?

I do all I can to avoid the infirmary because they've shown me nothing but carelessness and negligence time and time again. UTMB don't care about us — period. (UTMB is the University of Texas Medical Branch.)

I've seen inmates get infected with TB, and I've seen folks get the wrong medication and it turn fatal. One time I saw a female sergeant coax a guy into committing suicide. Now that same sgt. is a Lieutenant here at Eastham. If these walls could talk...

It's been hard to maintain my sanity all these years. Truth is one has to have a strong mind and strong will, otherwise it's easy to be consumed. I've lost so many loved ones during this stretch. I lost both sets of grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, I lost my son and my sister! It hurts, you know? I'm paying for my crimes dearly.

So soon I'll be spit out into society at the age of 50. I have minimal job skills and education. I must ask, "What does this say about the Texas system? About their administrative segregation units? About the parole system? Thank you for your time and concern. Respectfully, Omar Valdez TDC #726686"

Well, sisters and brothers, I don't have a lot to add to Omar's story. It took some courage for him to come forward and speak out. I think a lot of us are tired of hearing people like Jason Clark and Robert Hurst, the spokespersyns for TDCJ, feed the public a bunch of deceptions and lies. As another session of the Texas Legislature comes to an end, the slavery continues. Until we put an end to it! **Breaking news:** Omar was released early!

U.S. ARMY OPERATIONS ADVANCE IN MEXICO

By Santiago Navarro F, Avispa Media, Translated by El Enemigo Común

With the support of the Southern and Northern Commands of the US Military, the Mexican and Guatemalan armed forces have begun the creation of a new elite group, a Task Force that will carry out joint operations on the border shared by Mexico and Guatemala. This elite group is added to the seven Task Forces created and formed by the US together with Central American governments.

According to Gen. Juan M. Pérez Ramirez, Chief of the Guatemalan Defense Staff, this Task Force will carry out reconnaissance, including aerial and ground patrols, sharing information and intelligence to combat transnational organized crime. In Feb. 2017, a special report by Avispa Media documented the Southern and Northern Commands' visit to Mexican territory, as well as to Honduras and Guatemala, where participants requested anonymity.

The Guatemalan investigative journalist Luis Solano explained to Avispa Media that, "These inter-institutional Task Forces seek to position themselves at the main border points between Mexico, Belize, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama, and Honduras. We're talking about seven joint Task Forces formed by the US. There's infrastructure and an institutional and financial scaffolding in this country, which is to say that it is behind these Task Forces."

The National Defense and Navy secretariats, with financial support from US military commands, made it possible for the Conference on Central American Security (Centsec 2017) to take place for the first time in Mexico. There, the General affirmed that putting together the aforementioned elite group "has been in the works for more than five years." The Peten region has been considered as the strategic theater of operations where the group will operate.

Activities related to the drug trade have not diminished even though every member of the Task Force has access to specialized technology, heat sensors and night-vision goggles with a range of 2 kilometers used to carry out nighttime operations, as well as high-powered armament and tactical vehicles, according to Solano.

"The Task Forces, just like other programs implemented by the US, haven't achieved the objectives set out in the war on drugs. Infrastructural mega-projects for the extraction of minerals, petroleum, water, and gas have exploded. This, together with the drug trade, is a factor in expelling people from their communities, where they feel forced to migrate. Guatemala continues to be a key passage for the drug trade on the way to Mexico and the US, in different ways — by air, sea, land, and every way possible to transport drugs. All these routes begin in Honduras and El Salvador, and end in Peten, Huehuetenango and San Marcos, which are the areas bordering Mexico. Here, there are an impressive number of crossing points, which have not been changed since the formation of the first Task Force, which supposedly maintains a presence in this area," says Solano.

The conclusions of Centsec 2017 are centered on the importance of sharing information based on trust, as a necessity to respond effectively to the threats of transnational crime.

The central themes of these meetings have been migration, the drug trade, and organized crime. At the discussion table, a goal has been outlined to establish protocols for action and form strategic alliances between Mexico and Central American countries (Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Belize, El Salvador, and Panama). At no point did discussions touch on the sale of legal and illegal weapons, nor was counterinsurgency taken up in discussion. This information is discussed in the following report, *Intervention by the United States in Mexico and Central America: The continuation of the war economy* [Spanish].

While the commands of the Southern Command and the Northern Command of the United States were strategically located in Honduras, Mexico and



Guatemala, early in 2017, the newly elected President of the US, Donald Trump, threatened Enrique Peña Nieto, president of Mexico, about a possible military intervention in case he can't solve the issue of drug trafficking. The Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) is one of 6 US Dept. of Defense Unified Combatant Commands, and is responsible for US military operations, cooperation, and partnership building in a region that includes 31 countries and 10 territories in the United States. Caribbean, Central and South America. The Northern Command (NORTHCOM) is responsible for US internal defense, and covers Alaska, Canada, Mexico and portions of the Caribbean (including Cuba).

On Jan. 31, a US Air Force Gulfstream IV (C20-F) jet landed in the Navy hangar on the southern border of Mexico, Tapachula, Chiapas. Lori Robinson, head of the US Northern Command, Kurt Tidd, leader of the Southern Command, and Ambassador Roberta Jacobson met with officials from the Mexican Foreign Ministry. Among them was the undersecretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, Socorro Flores, and Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray. According to Reuters, attendees asked for anonymity. Among other issues addressed at this meeting were axes on migration and organized crime.

This meeting was taking place while diplomatic relations were tightened by telephone between the Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico and Trump, where the latter demanded of the Mexican president that his country pay for the construction of a border wall to divide the two countries. Trump also threatened Peña Nieto by telling him that if the Mexican military could not fight the drug cartels, then he would have to send troops from his country to solve the problem.

Trump's statements appear to be the continuation of a planned military intervention since before 2010, according to a WikiLeaks leak dated September 10, 2010 (Latam) Mexico-100910. That document reveals that a team of intelligence from Mexico and the then ambassador to the United States, Arturo Sarukhán, held secret meetings at the Pentagon's Northern Command facilities with the US Department of Homeland Security and representatives of the Air Force. The leak also claims that the then Commander of the North Command, Admiral James A. Winnefeld Jr., had ordered the evaluation of possible military assistance to Mexico, beyond training and exchange programs.

Although the Mexican president denied the conversation with Trump had talked about a possible intervention in the territory of Mexico, it seems that Trump's statements and the latest visit of US military commandos in Mexican territory have a broader meaning that requires participation and cooperation of the government of Peña Nieto for an intervention of US military forces to join the war against the drug traffic

and the counterinsurgency. Since the leak also claims that Hillary Clinton compared the events with the war contexts in the Middle East, therefore, the war on drug trafficking in Mexico would have to be considered as a counterinsurgency war.

In this war against drug trafficking in Mexico, where the US has been involved, the reality is more than 200,000 dead for a decade, accompanied by strengthening organized crime and an increase in the flow of arms and drugs. While these leaders are struggling to exchange their most intelligent speeches, at least 2000 weapons enter Mexico illegally every day; it's certain that the market is part of the \$10 billion a year represented by the US armaments industry. Arms are goods that obviously fluctuate according to the laws of supply and demand. Since according to a report published in 2014 by the Center for Social Studies and Public Opinion (CESOP) of Mexico, it's estimated that these 2000 weapons are legally purchased in one of more than one hundred thousand permits.

Who sells them is legally constituted businesses or through the so-called "Gun shows" that operate along the border with the US and Mexico. An example is the AR-15 assault rifle manufactured by the Smith & Wesson, which is one of the preferred weapons of the drug traffickers, but also of exclusive use of the Mexican army and the Central American armies. This company that trades its shares in NASDAQ (National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation) with the symbol SWHC. In 2016 alone it recorded \$722.91 million in sales.

Arms exports from the world's major industries rose by 14% from 2011-15 over the previous five-year period, with the US being the world's largest arms dealer, according to the International Institute for Studies on The Peace of Stockholm (SIPRI) in Feb. 2016. To the illegal arms add the armament bought by the Nation States. An example is Mexico, from 2012-15, the Peña Nieto government increased the purchase of military equipment to the US, such as airplanes, helicopters, all-terrain trucks and high-powered weapons. This acquisition was made through the Foreign Military Sales Program (FMS).

Military expenditure per person increased in the period 2004-2014; In Honduras it increased from 9.0 to 30.7 dollars and in El Salvador it increased from 26.8 to 41.0 dollars. More than 1 trillion dollars in total arms sales, according to the 2015 report by the US Senate Armed Services Committee and the US Defense and Security Agency (DSCA). The US arms industry profits from both sides of the war, with organized crime and the government, while the 200,000 lives lost in this context are only collateral damage, and people are forced to migrate, become illegal. The flow of arms is a fundamental pillar that sustains organized crime, and the arms industry .

ZAPATISTAS RUN INDIGENOUS WOMAN FOR PRESIDENT OF MEXICO

Maria de Jesus Patricio Martinez, known to most as Marichuy, is a Nahuatl curandera (healer) from Jalisco. Born in 1963, she has dedicated her life to the health of her community through traditional medicine and herbology. In late May, however, hundreds of delegates representing their indigenous communities from across Mexico met in San Cristóbal de Las Casas in Chiapas for the National Indigenous Congress (CNI) and named her as their presidential candidate for the 2018 election.

Thousands of observers in attendance from around the world erupted in cheers and applause as she accepted the position declaring, "Our proposal on behalf of the National Indigenous Council and our brothers and sisters of the EZLN who spoke their piece is not to work so much to receive votes, or to sit over there in the malicious [presidential] chair. Rather, our participation is one for life. It is for our organization. It is for the reconstruction of our peoples who have been beaten for years and years. Now we need to find a way to continue existing... Here, those who will be on the front lines



are present. They're the 71 representatives, men and women, who will form the Indigenous Council for Government."

Marichuy's position, despite being named as the CNI's presidential candidate, is not one of leader, but of spokesperson. Drawing from the roots of indigenous systems of governance, decisions will be

made starting in community and regional assemblies until they reach the Indigenous Council for Government (CIG), whose members were also named at this convening. Their guiding principles are those put to the test by the Zapatistas in the past two decades:

- Obey and not command.**
- Represent and not supplant.**
- To go from below and not from above.**
- To serve and not serve oneself.**
- To convince and not beat.**
- To construct and not destroy.**
- To propose and not impose.**

Little is known about what the future holds for this unprecedented candidacy, but one thing is for sure: Mexico, and the world, is in need of healing. Marichuy may be just the healer to attend to the wounds and begin the process.

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TURNING THE TIDE

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ★ July 4: The Farce of July 3-10p, 2225 Colorado Blvd, L.A. 90041
- ★ July 9: White Privilege & Racism, 6-8:30p, 2200 Virginia Av, SM 90404
- ★ July 15: AWARE-LA Eastside dialog, 1845 N. San Fernando Rd, 90065
- ★ 100X100 Fundraising Campaign for TTT gofundme.com/eugzgg
- ★ July 8-15, Tierra Amarilla Youth Leadership Training camp, New Mexico
- ★ Aug. 1-31: Black August fasting, training, study and dedication
- ★ Sept. 23-24 TORCH Antifa Network gathering, Chicago IL
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