

PART’s Perspective:

# Will the Real Fascist Please Stand Up?

## Seizing the Initiative Against the Empire

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

During much of the Bush regime’s hold on power, many on the left were convinced it represented an incipient fascism, as its use of the Big Lie technique, glorification of militarism and trampling of rights hearkened back to the Third Reich. Simultaneously, Bush’s neo-con allies propagandized about the threat of Islamo-fascism. Now, the Tea Party claims to see an identity between Obama and Hitler and to equate health insurance reform with fascism. Conversely, many on the left see Tea Party reactionary populism and white nationalism as a form of proto-fascism.

Why the fixation on fascism? The enormous crimes of Hitler and the nazis, along with decades of propaganda and the general perception of World War II as the last “good” (and unifying) war, make fascism the prototype of evil that people across the political spectrum (apart from self-proclaimed fascists) can all claim to oppose.

But there is a deeper reason why so many seek to identify political opponents as fascists – it strips the target of legitimacy, while at the same time justifying the use of extreme measures, up to and including war, to eliminate the threat the fascist represents. It’s clear, in the event, why Bush compared Saddam to Hitler, and why Al Qaeda and other militant Islamic groups were designated as Islamo-fascists. Baseless as they were, such characterizations served to win public approval for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (as well as to link Saddam and bin-Laden in the minds of many).

Liberals and leftists, who found Hitler’s moustache on George W. Bush’s “what-me-worry” visage to be accurate and biting political satire, consider the right wing use of the same iconography on Barack Obama’s “hope/change” face to be the height of absurd racism. Yet the continuities between Bush and Obama are undeniable (on the subsidies and bailouts to Wall Street, on the privatization of military, espionage and counter-insurgency forces, on the use of troop ‘surges’ in pursuit of victory in Iraq and Afghanistan). The Department of Homeland Security, the USA PATRIOT Act, ICE raids, TSA x-rays, indefinite detention of enemy combatants without trial have all been normalized under Obama.

To these crimes of the Empire under Bush, Obama has added a record increase in detentions and deportations of the undocumented. He has further militarized US engagement with Latin America, including acceptance of the military coup in Honduras and the implantation of US bases in Colombia. Obama eliminated single-payer health care, or even a public option, in favor of a pro-corporate coverage system that mandates individuals to buy private health insurance. He has intensified privatization of

schools and attacks on public unions. Is it both who are fascist, or neither?

Some who accept fascism’s self-definition as an anti-capitalist and ‘revolutionary’ current believe that white nationalists, open nazis and reactionary populists pose a true fascist threat, especially when combined with Christian fundamentalism, Reconstructionism or more heretical racial Identity sects. Others see statist authoritarianism or totalitarianism, emerging from corporate domination of all the levers of increasingly repressive power, glorification of the military and militarization of the police and other aspects of domestic society, as the main threat.

Anti-Racist Action has always held that fascism is built from above and below. Certainly the multi-million dollar subsidies of Tea Parties by billionaires shows that the two tendencies interlock.

But the real reason for the search for a definition of fascism that applies to current realities exposes an unfortunate truth – fear and avoidance of the need for revolution to deal with the Empire as it is right now.

It reflects the acceptance and internalization of the Empire’s legitimacy on its own terms, and defers the full possibility of uncompromising struggle until some future date when the system crosses the line to fascism.

But as George Jackson said, “Fascism is already here.” He understood that fascism brought the methods of rule in the colonies into the metropole, and in the US, the colonies are a part of the domestic empire itself. Here, corporatism in both its senses – rule of corporations, and incorporation of organized masses into the Imperial state via white supremacy and neo-colonialism – have always been the rule.

The crimes of this Empire don’t require the development of an explicitly fascist dictatorship to justify building a revolutionary opposition. Genocide, environmental devastation, the constant extraction of wealth and power from the exploited and oppressed, are daily realities right now. This democratic republican system condemns billions of people to lives of intense and grinding poverty for the enrichment of a few billionaires.

Without the SS, it operates a police state that requires racial profiling, gang injunctions and mass incarceration. Colonialism means a constant state of war against the colonized people to maintain control over land and labor. These realities require of us the self-critical examination of the strengths and weaknesses of all previous efforts at liberation to develop a strategy to win this time.

Waiting for full-blown fascism to justify the development of a clandestine mentality, or the full capacity for self-defense, is not only unnecessary morally or politically, it is suicidal. The Empire is already on the defensive, already beyond parasitic to necrotic, dead on its feet and injecting its death into its surroundings.

The Empire is a system of class and colonial war against the population and the planet. The war goes on whether we recognize it or not, so we cannot afford to fight with one hand behind our back or half-heartedly. Humanity, the earth itself and all the species that inhabit it, cry out for our best effort to uproot and overturn this system now.

## Editorial Retraction and Self-Criticism

The Portland chapter of Anti-Racist Action, Rose City Antifa, brought to our attention that *Turning the Tide* has published several pieces from authors and sources that promote anti-Semitism, denial of Hitler’s genocide of the Jews, and “left-right collaboration.” We regret the error in publishing, without sufficiently investigating the sources and associations, what purported to be simply pro-Palestinian articles. As anti-fascists, we should have been more familiar with these anti-Semitic sources and narratives so as to oppose them effectively and counter the corrosive effect they have on anti-racism and true solidarity with Palestinians. *TTT* has long opposed a “red-brown” alliance.

In *TTT* Vol 22, #3, Fall 2009, we published “Boycotts as a Legitimate Means of Resistance As Determined by the Oppressed People” by Kim Petersen. It originally appeared on the *Dissident Voice* web site, of which Petersen is a co-editor. We ran the piece, which we came across on an email discussion list concerning the campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel (a tactic which we continue to support). The BDS campaign in LA and internationally specifically unites around barring racist and anti-Semitic forces. But it turns out that while *Dissident Voice* portrays itself as left wing and “a radical newsletter in the struggle for peace and justice,” it promotes anti-Semitism that operates under only the barest cover of “anti-Zionism,” while defending neo-Nazis. It also promotes “left-right crossover,” which ARA-LA/PART and *TTT* have always opposed. Perhaps the clearest example of this is *Dissident Voice*’s publication of several articles by Daniel A. McGowan, executive director of *Deir Yassin Remembered* (not to be confused with US eco-radical and political prisoner Daniel G. McGowan.) In a December 30, 2006 article for *Dissident Voice*, McGowan recounts a prison visit with Ernst Zündel, the notorious neo-Nazi and Holocaust-denier, who McGowan presents as “a man with strong convictions and the courage to express them.” McGowan’s February 17, 2009 article “What Does Holocaust Denial Really Mean?” argued that “the Holocaust narrative of systematic, industrialized extermination was an important neo-conservative tool to drive the United States into Iraq.” Another Jew-hater *Dissident Voice* published is Mark Green, editor of the anthology *Persecution, Privilege, & Power: Reconsidering the Zionist Narrative in American Life*. Green has spoken before the Institute for Historical Review, apologists for and deniers of Hitler’s genocide of European Jewry, and has interviewed Kevin MacDonald, the white supremacist professor at California State University Long Beach who is now a leader with the fascist American Third Position Party. Green’s piece defended the so-called “Heretical Two,” English extreme-right activists Simon Sheppard and Stephen Whittle, who fled to the US to claim political asylum (unsuccessfully) after they were convicted in the UK of numerous charges of inciting racial hatred. More recently, *Dissident Voice* has published articles explicitly arguing for political collaboration between leftists and the far right, one of which was republished by Chuck Munson on the well-known anarchist site infoshop.org.

In *TTT* Vol. 23 #2, April-June 2010 we printed “International Campaign in Support of Palestinian Political Prisoners” by Yousef Abudayyeh. This article was originally published on the Palestine Think Tank website where Abudayyeh is a regular contributor. That site has published a direct attack against Rose City Antifa and the Anti-Racist Action Network written by the webmaster for Eugene, Oregon’s Pacifica Forum, another pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic project. One of the Think Tank’s founders, “ex-Jew” Gilad Atzmon, has circulated pro-Zündel material. He has written that “throughout the

centuries, Jewish bankers bought for themselves some real reputations of backers and financiers of wars and even one communist revolution.” (Atzmon’s article was pulled from Palestine Think Tank but remains on his personal site.) A particularly disturbing aspect of Palestine Think Tank is its promotion of “Israeli organ harvesting” allegations, a modern-day variant of the earlier Blood Libel that alleged that Jewish people killed Christian and Muslim children to use their blood in religious rituals. Yousef Abudayyeh, whose article appeared in *TTT*, signed on to Palestine Think Tank’s promotion of the “organ harvesting” libel.

Although the two articles we published do not contain this kind of material, we did not exercise due editorial diligence regarding the sources, connections and strategies of the authors and their associates. We continue to believe in the campaign to boycott Israel until its occupation and blockade of the territories occupied in the 1967 war ends, it recognizes the right of return for Palestinians in the refugee camps and diaspora, and Arab citizens in Israel have full equality and rights. We also continue to support freedom for Palestinian political prisoners (and all political prisoners). The long-term anti-colonial, anti-imperialist perspective of ARA-LA/PART is in favor of a “no-state” solution. We have always identified anti-Semitism and Zionism, as well as Arab reaction, as enemies not only of the Jewish and Arab people but all people. However, we apologize to our readers for inadvertently promoting sources and authors whose politics diverge from such authentically anti-imperialist views and in fact promote or front for right-wing, racist and anti-Semitic views.

Many years ago, in *TTT* Vol. 14, #2, Summer 2001, we printed the article “Ode to Farris” by Israel Shamir. Shamir was celebrated at the time by many on the US left, and presented himself as an anti-Zionist Jew living in Israel. But several individuals, including Ali Abunimah of the *Electronic Intifada* project, had already raised the alarm about Shamir’s true politics and anti-Semitism, before Shamir even wrote the article that was eventually reprinted in *Turning the Tide*. We should have been aware of this at the time, and should have printed a retraction or warning when we later became aware of Shamir’s true identity and politics. In their 2001 critique of Shamir, Ali Abunimah and Hussein Ibish made the key points. He promotes the Christian anti-Semitic theme of Jews as “Christ killers.” He portrays Jewish people as a “virus” without a legitimate tie to any particular land who infect and undermine host populations; and he suggests that there is truth to the “Blood Libel” (Abunimah and Ibish assumed that Shamir must have been misquoted in the last instance). Our point in publishing Shamir’s piece 9 years ago was the argument that the Palestinian people should be honored for their courage and resistance instead of being pitied as victims. However, at points the article’s content lapses into the use of “Jew” as a racial category, and even without being aware of Abunimah and Ibish’s expose, we should have caught that and found a better source for such an argument.

We want to thank Rose City Antifa for bringing these matters to our attention at the recent ARA Network conference, which they hosted, and for their diligent research efforts in documenting such pro-Nazi and anti-Semitic material. The full text of their material including extensive source citations and footnotes, is available on-line at [www.antiracist.org](http://www.antiracist.org).--*MN*



# Rumors

## Street Stories of Anti-Racist/Anti-Fascist actions in the U.S. & Canada

### DISCLAIMER

*The name of this blotter is to be taken literally. Nothing has been fact checked. Submissions were received via Internet from anonymous anti-fascists, who may or may not have been speaking about themselves. This blotter is meant to convey some of the realities of everyday anti-fascism, and is not to be taken as encouragement or endorsement of any particular action.*

#### New Brunswick, NJ:

Anti-fascists and pro-choice individuals have been striking back against anti-abortion fundamentalists in their community. Anti-choicers picketing a local clinic during the “40 days for life” were struck by fruit and obscenities by passersby, and a long-standing fake clinic run by anti-choicers had its locks glued and a security camera damaged.

#### Chicago, IL:

Chi-town antifa lured the leader of the city’s most active neo-nazi group and one of his crew 3 hours from home after posing as a potential recruit looking to buy a t-shirt. The two Nazis were greeted by a handful of antifa, who treated them to a proper greeting before making a quick escape, leaving the Nazis, who were arrested afterwards, reeling.

#### Trenton, NJ/Philadelphia, PA:

Antifascists from NJ and Philly have been on their game. Upon spotting Nazis at DRI shows in Philly and Sayreville, NJ antifa mobilized for a DRI show in Trenton, NJ. Contacting the promoters to get permission to table, they turned out huge numbers, and ran several members and associates of Keystone State Skinheads (KSS) out the door no sooner than they had paid admission. Philly antifa also tailed some KSS boneheads as they left an Overkill show in the city. In both instances KSS regional director Keith Carney attempted to deny he was a nazi as he fled. KSS seems to be suffering further setbacks, and have apparently cancelled their Leif Ericsson day action for October 10.

#### Chicago, IL:

Chicago gets a second mention this issue for turning out some hard nose antifa to an outing of local National Socialist Movement (NSM) member Suzy Lenner at her workplace, ironically a head shop called Secrets. A man claiming to be her boss jumped out of a taxi and accosted the antifa, but was met with a barrage of eggs against him and his store. Again, the antifascist ninjas melted into the street and evaded authorities.

#### Pittsburgh, PA:

PGH pro-choice militants and neighborhood kids converged on anti-choice protesters on a main drag in town, blocking their signs with large sheets. Eventually the anti-

choicers gave up and headed to their car, where they were tailed by a now large, angry mob. At some point the car of one of the anti-choicers had its windows broken. They have not been seen in the neighborhood since.

#### Omaha, NE:

A 62 year old man was arrested for firing pepper spray at Gay hating, racist, sexist, all around worst people in the world Westboro “god hates fags” Baptist Church members while they picketed a military funeral. Westboro Church members also got a hot reception by dozens of comix fans when they attempted to picket the San Diego Comic-Con.

#### Pittsburgh PA, August:

David Japenga was found guilty of a felony and a buncha midemeanors for property destruction during the G-20 protests last year. He was remanded into custody until his sentencing, which isn’t until November. His lawyer has a motion for bail until then. There was a solidarity demonstration at the jail for him. The most important thing you can do right now is to write him a letter so he gets it soon. His address is: David Japenga #153760, 950 Second Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

#### Portland, OR, July:

As part of the July 31 Call to Action Against Racism and Fascism, a coordinated effort by anti-racists in North America and beyond (check out [july31antifa.blogspot.com](http://july31antifa.blogspot.com) for the Call as well as reports of events that took place that day), a crowd of about 65 rallied and marched to the home of neo-Nazi Jeffery Jay Thomas, to distribute information about his political activities. Thomas was “out-ed” by RCA on July 4 for his participation in the racist Blood and Honour American Division 2010 Gathering near Omaha, Nebraska, as well as his other white power activities in Portland and beyond. To call Central City Concern Administration and express concern about neo-Nazi organizer Jeffrey Jay Thomas living at and organizing from their Sally McCracken Building property, the number for their Administrative Offices is: 503-294-1681 (Use \*67 to obscure your number if security is a concern.)

While anti-racists rallied downtown, flyers were also in the mail to 100+ neighbors of Chaseton Dale Word, local leader of the neo-Nazi Northwest Front. The NWF claims the Pacific Northwest must be ethnically cleansed to form a white-only homeland.

#### All Over, USA:

Anti-Racist music is alive and well in the states. Aside from the constant vigilance of keeping fascists out of shows, there have been benefits for injured antifascist Luke Querner, who was shot in March by neo Nazis, from Philadelphia to Houston to Portland. Additionally, expressly anti-racist/fascist events were held recently in Hoquiam, Washington Knox County, Tennessee and Kent, Ohio.

Send items for “Rumors” to [info@antiracistaction.org](mailto:info@antiracistaction.org)

# ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK

## FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

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

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

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

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

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

### 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 1200 copies of each edition are sent free to prisoners. Friends of ARA-LA/PART are either in prison, or facing prosecution for anti-fascist political activity. We had to switch to quarterly publication because of a lack of sufficient funds and staffing. **What can you do?**

We rely entirely on subscriptions and reader donations to publish. We’ve been coming out for 22 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)

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

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**ATTENTION PRISON SUBSCRIBERS! Because of financial constraints, prisoners who want a free subscription must contact us every 6 months.** Too many papers are coming back because of address changes, releases or other similar problems. Therefore, prisoners who want to continue their subs please write us at least once during the year, and every time your address changes, with your EXACT address as it should appear on the address label to make sure the institution delivers it. **TTT** is a small project with few resources: **we can’t provide books or legal aid, or investigate individuals’ innocence.**

# Town Business from the Bay to L.A.:

# “WE ARE ALL OSCAR GRANT!”

by Shango Abiola, Field Marshal, Black Riders Liberation Party

“**Point number 7: We demand an immediate end to police brutality and the murder of Black people.**” These words from the Ten Point Program and Platform of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, ‘What We Want & What We Believe’,” forever immortalized in the warrior spirit of the Afrikan Diaspora, have embodied the spirit of the people of northern and southern Cali.

If ever the phrase “history repeats itself” has had a positive connotation it’s in the parallels of the movement for justice for Oscar Grant and the spread of the Black Panther Party in the 1960’s. Let’s not romanticize this historic struggle for justice of our brother Oscar Grant and all the ancestors who fell victim to the pigs’ bullets, but it does seem quite obvious that the seeds of resistance are being planted similar to the ways they were in the ’60s. Militant rebellions that ranged from protests that destroyed property in downtown Oakland to police being killed in response to an atmosphere of fear they created. The similarities are undeniable. In order for us to win this struggle this time around, we should need to analyze the situation as it is in order to decide how to move. This article will be an analysis and timeline of the events of the Oscar Grant Movement and the movement to end police terrorism.

## JANUARY 1, 2009, 2:00 AM: THE PUBLIC LYNCHING

BART police officers Tony Pirone and Johannes Mehserle execute 22 year old Blackman and working father Oscar Grant, with his hands behind his back and Tony Pirone’s knee on Oscar Grant’s neck, while officers Merysol Domenici and other officers stood by and watched. Prior to their lynching Oscar Grant, well-known racist Tony Pirone was caught on tape assaulting Oscar Grant and calling him a BITCH ASS NIGGER multiple times before officer Mehserle cowardly shot him in the back.

## JANUARY 7, 2009: THE TOWN’S REBELLION

At 3:00 pm, many grassroots organizations hold a press conference protesting the execution of Oscar Grant and demanding that all officers on the platform be held accountable and charged. Because of the community outrage and mobilization, Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums calls a separate press conference in order to divert attention from the community organizing around the murder of Oscar Grant. At 9:30 PM, Mayor Dellums’s purposeful negligence, along with police provocation, leads a peaceful protest from the Fruitvale BART station into a full-scale rebellion in the middle of downtown Oakland. As a result of the rebellion over 100 people were arrested on frame-up charges, in an attempt to crush the movement of the people. This was referred to as the Oakland 100 case. Many of the people arrested were community organizers, such as the Minister of Information of the P.O.C.C. JR.

## FEBRUARY 27, 2009: COINTELPRO IS STILL ALIVE

Self-confessed agent provocateur Mandingo Hayes (FAKE BLACK PANTHER/REAL SNITCH) starts a fight at Oscar Grant’s birthday celebration outside of the Black Dot Café in West Oakland, in order to neutralize the community organizing against police terrorism.

## MARCH 1, 2009

Town Hall meeting at the Black Dot Café: Many community activists gather to expose Hayes as an agent provocateur and strategize on the next move in the Johannes Mehserle case.

## March 21, 2009 CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST R.I.P. LOVELLE MIXON

Lovelle Mixon (Deep East Oakland Soldier) is killed after defending his life against four Oakland pigs while more than likely being racially profiled. Oakland police have a brutal history of terrorizing the Black and Brown community, from Black Panther Li’l Bobby Hutton to Oakland residents Gary King, Andrew Mopin, elderly woman Anita Gay and many more. Multiple officers (if not all) were corrupt; including officer Dunakin, a North Oakland pig known for lynching (“justifiable homicide”) of Black men. We (the Black Riders Liberation Party) feel Lovelle Mixon’s actions were righteous, whether he was a political organizer or not. We feel that our brother Lovelle Mixon represented with his dying breath the spirit of Afrikan resistance. The B.R.L.P. feels that whether he was a revolutionary or not, he acted in a more revolutionary manner than some so-called “revolutionaries” who are more scared of police repression than they are in tune with the unspoken language of the streets! To the Afrikans in the united snakes, brother Lovelle Mixon’s actions speak to the need in the black community to militantly organize the masses of Afrikan people in ways that aren’t all theory with no action. Black Riders is just that kinda organization. We feel because of the political atmosphere from the Oscar Grant execution, the historic nature of the pigs being an occupying army, and the terrorist reputation of Dunakin and OPD, that Lovelle Mixon’s act of rebellion were, as El Hajj Malik El Shabazz (Malcolm X) would say, “THE CHICKENS COMING HOME TO ROOST!”

## SEPTEMBER 11, 2009: CHANGE IN VENUE

Mehserle’s defense attorney Michael Rains files for a change of venue order to stop the people of Oakland and the Bay Area’s continuous rebellion, and the trial moves

to Los Angeles shortly after. The defense filed the motion from the belief that the people of Alameda were too racist to be an impartial jury....ain’t that some B.S.

## JANUARY 8, 2010: 2 LIVE AND DIE IN LA

The preliminary hearing in Los Angeles starts for the trial of Johanesh Mehserle and the people of LA are there, to show their support for Oscar Grant’s family and protest police terrorism. Being a city drenched in blood of pig terrorism from Rodney King to Deandre Brunston, the people made sure to have a strong presence at the courthouse, to show that police brutality won’t be tolerated in LA. Among the organizations that were there were the Black Riders Liberation Party, the Commemoration Committee For The Black Panther Party, the Prisoners Of Conscience Committee, the Justice Coalition For Oscar Grant (Bay & LA) and more.

## JUNE 10, 2010: TRIAL OFFICIALLY STARTS

The trial of murdering pig Officer Mehserle begins in LA.

## JUNE 14, 2010: ALL OUT TO THE COURT-HOUSE

The Black Riders post on security detail as the LA Coalition and the people protest police terrorism outside the court house as witnesses are called to the stand. Supporters from as far as Seattle and New York come to LA to help build resistance against police terrorism and fight for justice for Oscar Grant.

## JUNE 25, 2010: THE DISREPECT CONTINUES

Mehserle takes the stand and gives a rehearsed testimony with the acting skills of a politician, crying on stand about him killing Oscar Grant, even though he hasn’t apologized to the victim’s mother or family. At this blatant disrespect for Oscar Grant comrade Timothy Killings of the Laney College BSU (in Oakland) stands up and tells Mehserle to “save those fucking fake tears...”. He was assaulted and taken into custody in LA county Jail until he was freed a few days later.

## JULY 1, 2010: NO JUSTICE NO PEACE

The possibility of Murder 1 is taken off the board and the stage is set by the state to deny yet another Black family justice.

## JULY 5, 2010: PIGS FAKE THE FUNK

Black Riders drill and demonstrate in front of the courthouse even though the courts have postponed the verdict announcement. For some odd reason the trial is postponed because one juror is supposedly sick and another one supposedly has an appointment to go to....hmm, sounds like a set up.

## JULY 7: OPPRESSION BREEDS RESISTANCE, RESISTANCE BREEDS REPRESSION

Pigs raid the Black Rider headquarters on a supposed parole violation, on the night before what turns out to be the day the verdict comes in. Several comrades are hemmed up while the fascist police seize computers and literature from the house and take General T.A.C.O. straight to state custody bypassing booking and holding. The fact is the fascist state knows that the Black Riders have been the main voice for the Afrikan community in LA standing up for justice for Oscar Grant non-stop.

Without a pot to piss in, comrades still push the line for justice every day of our lives, providing support and political education for comrades from Oakland while down in LA. I can say personally as a member of Black Riders and being from the Bay area that General T.A.C.O. in the short time I have known him has helped to sharpen my military and political skills as a revolutionary more than anyone else I have met in my life. Linking Afrikans with Indigenous people not just in LA but all over California. The parole officer told T.A.C.O. he was being taken for “sending the Black Riders to the Oscar Grant trial.” A few days later, after the verdict came in, the supervisor of General T.A.C.O.’s parole officers released him back to the streets, acknowledging that it had been an unfounded action, but warning him that the feds, the LAPD and the parole system saw him as a threat. Despite the fact that the Black Riders proved in court during the trial proceedings against the Black Rider 3 that the BRLP is not a gang, the parole officers still intend to use the former gang jackets hung on some members of the BRLP to restrict T.A.C.O.’s ability to associate and communicate with members of his community.

## JULY 8: NO JUSTICE NO PEACE, F\*#!K THE POLICE!

After only six hours of deliberation, the jury convicts murderous pig Johannes Mehserle of only involuntary manslaughter with a gun enhancement, and the court proves yet again that this system is not designed for poor and oppressed people. Protestors meet up in Los Angeles at Leimert Park demanding real justice. In downtown Oakland, on 14th and Broadway, a group of thousands of people angrily meet up to speak out against police terrorism, and after their assembly is declared illegal, destroy corporate property in spite an excess of scary ass pigs and the National Guard being called in. Seventy-eight people were arrested, 12 of whom weren’t even from California. One thing is for sure, the fascist state is getting scared, but the people aren’t. Shout out to the righteous fury connecting the people from the Bay to L.A. Game recognize Game, and it shows that the people will not let Oscar Grant’s memory go in vain!

It is hard to say how the outcome of this trial will affect oppressed people in general and Afrikan people in particular, but it is safe to say that whatever the outcome of the Mehserle trial, that our work as revolutionaries will not be done even with a partial guilty verdict. The fact that officers Domenici and Pirone were fired is not enough. Just the simple fact that their appeals weren’t ripped up and laughed at shows that there is no justice in this system for black people, or brown people or any oppressed people so long as kkkapitalism lives. Sentencing has been postponed until November 8 in hopes people will drop their guard and Mehserle’s defense can win a motion to throw out the gun enhancement. People are mobilizing to make sure Mehserle gets the maximum sentence, and that justice is sought in other legal arenas.

But one thing is for sure -- that the Black Riders Liberation Party will be here to push the line for justice for Oscar Grant, Lovelle Mixon, Deandre Brunston, Carlos Rivera, Ayana Jones and all victims of police terrorism, until the principles of Revolutionary Afrikan Inter-communalism are achieved. Our work is not defined by the verdict of white supremacist bourgeoisie law, but this case is a catalyst for the people who were too plugged into the matrix to see the terror that Black people experience to wake up and get active. We will continue to push the line until we are FREE!

**Free Mumia, Free Leonard Peltier, Free Oso Blanco, Free Chip Fitzgerald, Free General T.A.C.O. and Free All Political Prisoners!**  
**Justice for Oscar Grant, Justice for Deandre Brunston, Justice for Carlos Rivera!**  
**Black Power to Black People!**  
**ALL POWER THROUGH THE PEOPLE!**  
**JOIN NOW!**  
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**As we went to press, street protests erupted in LA against cops who killed a Maya day laborer. ARA, Black Riders, Brown Riders, LA Oscar Grant Coal. were out to support the Guatemalan community.**



# HAITI: AGONY AND COURAGE

by Mabie Settlage and Osprival Descommme

A prolonged agony has now engulfed Haiti and its people, and an enormous outpouring of sympathy, support, donations and reconstruction efforts are called for from the world’s people. But we need to keep in mind a clear picture of the Haiti that bore the horrific earthquake of January 12, 2010, and that continues to bear the consequences, in order to point a direction forward – the gallant, beautiful Haiti that has struggled for its sovereignty since 1804.

For people who believe in a world of equal rights and justice, especially for Africa and African slaves’ descendants, Haiti is a beacon of freedom and possibility. For those who oppose those ideals and profit through their suppression, Haiti has been a throbbing thorn in their side and a constant target.

We went to Haiti after the quake, to see first hand the impact on the people and on our previous solidarity efforts there. In the darkness of a spring night, our car caught in a traffic jam driving into Tabarre, a suburb of Port au Prince. Huge truckloads of manufactured goods heading out of town, other huge trucks headed into the city with vegetables and fruit from the countryside. The smells of diesel and charcoal seemed so normal, so busy as Haiti always is – until you look past the highway, where the moonlight reflects on thousands of shelters, tents, plastic sheets, hanging blankets: the refuge of some of the population displaced from the capital by the quake.

It was two months after the quake. We were working in the countryside, bringing farmers from the Latibonite Valley to an area above the coastal city of San marc, where an agricultural community may have the key to restoring Haitian food security. Our team was heading into P.a.P. to meet others, all Haitians but me, a teacher from LA. My comrade, a Haitian who’d been living in Canada and an organizer of our collective work, was driving. Five of our members had been in the capital on Jan. 12, shaken out of our office, but unhurt. Their stories were of horror, dust, screaming, bodies, seeing friends die, not one or two but dozens, the pervasive smell of death. One lost his baby boy, brother and nephew under rubble still unmoved until July. Everyone had pain to survive and recover from, and they were doing so through collective effort to confront the post-quake realities.

Entering the city in the morning, we were greeted by a big banner across the road: “Retou a la vi, Ayiti Pap Peri” (Come back to life, Haiti has not perished). True that. Much of the city is rubble, but not all, and press declarations that Haiti was destroyed are not true. But the enormity of the task of re-housing the displaced is hard to fathom.

The beautiful city parks, once full of Haitians on warm evenings between the insecurity of the political past (of dictatorship and coups) and the horror of the “*catastroph*”, are now full of families housed in tents or just plastic sheeting.

Haiti being Haiti, even that has flavor. A displaced club owner has set up speakers blasting “*compas*” to passersby and residents sitting in plastic chairs and sipping “*Rhum Babanko*.” Women grill meat on makeshift barbecues, smells mingling with roast corn, chicken and spicy cabbage garnish. We went to the “*Neg Marron*”, the Haitian bronze statue tribute to the spirit of revolution, a slave with broken chains, raising a conch shell to call the country to battle. It is surrounded by shanties, but as we left, a young man said to us in Kreyol, “Take a picture of my store.”

We hitched a boat to our car, and towed it through the epicenter. We saw where the road had cracked, and passed flattened buildings. Over the mountain in Jacmel we saw collapsed schools and hotels. We delivered the boat to some fishers in Jacmel. A young man came up and asked if I spoke English, explaining he had learned to in school. “We had a natural ‘*catastroph*’,”he said. “The Caribbean plate crashed into the North American plate – tectonics.” I told him I wish I could put him on TV to dispel the lies on US news about the Haitians’ superstitions.

Although there was a giant, splendid medical relief effort immediately after the quake, and the delivery of food

and water saved thousands of lives, we can testify first hand that there is still no evidence of reconstruction. We saw only three large land movers in March, and my comrade saw no significant change in July. We saw men with hammers, striking concrete off collapsed rebar, and teenagers with shovels, tossing rubble into pickup trucks – but NO LARGE ORGANIZED EFFORT to put thousands of displaced into real housing. Markets and roads had been built before the January quake with aid from Hugo Chavez’s Venezuela, which also assisted in improving the reliability of electrical generation. Before the quake, things seemed promising.

And the promise is still there. Haiti is a country that never stays down, regardless of natural or man-made disasters. It’s a remarkable place, its people of enduring optimism. What Haiti has contributed to world history and culture is unmatched. Haiti was the first to stand up and tell the world: “The African was not made by god to be a slave!” Surrounded and occupied by bigger, more powerful nations, whose wealth was based on slavery, Haiti said, “No!” Here is the only place on the planet where an enslaved population rose up with blood and courage, threw off the slave master and declared independence, defeating the strongest European army of the day, that of Napoleon. Haitians even earlier had helped the US defeat the British in the Battle of Savannah. The Haitian resistance to the French forced that Empire to sell Louisiana Territory to the US to raise revenue. The Haitian Constitution of 1804 was the first on earth to declare universal civil rights to all, men and women. In

renaming the former Saint-Domingue “Haiti,” (Ayiti), Pres. Dessalines honored the indigenous Arawak people, the first time that native Americans were recognized in naming a country.

But these very examples of slave revolt and sovereignty struck fear in slave owners and colonizers. Haiti was the first country in the world to face economic sanctions, as slave-owner President Thomas Jefferson imposed an embargo against it. Haiti was the first country in the world forced to pay reparations – to the slave master! The price of international recognition of Haiti’s independence was to pay France 150 million francs for the loss of their colony and slaves. Without cash, Pres. Boyer of Haiti had to accept a French loan, and pay the revenue needed for development to the European creditors. Haiti has since been invaded more than 20 times. Spanish, French, German and U.S. warships have entered Haitian waters, and the country has been forced to pay indemnities, reduce its tariffs, suffer under imposed dictators, and face the plunder of its labor and resources. Yet the people retain their optimism and welcoming graciousness – and their willingness to resist.

Frederick Douglass said of Haiti in 1893: “To their shame ... men in high American quarters have boasted to me of their ability to start a revolution in Haiti at their pleasure.” And this remains true – both coups that drove twice-elected President Jean Bertrand Aristide from office and into exile were financed and outfitted by U.S. private and government support. The coups cost thousands of lives and dashed hopes of real change.

Today, Haiti is again suffering from forces it neither created nor controls. Pundits and journalists speculate about the “fatalism” of the Haitians and call for a repetition of the destabilizing, insulting paternalism of earlier episodes of intervention. Pity, condescension and missionary zeal will only cause more long-term harm. Help rescue and rebuild Port au Prince, but do so recognizing the strength and vitality of the Haitian people. No other nation has worked so diligently to stay independent. Relief efforts from the international community must be guided by Haitian independence and self-determination, rather than serving to propagate or disguise a new occupation. ***Let Haiti Live!***

*Mabie Settlage is an anti-racist of European descent, a teacher in South L.A. and has been active in solidarity with Haiti since before the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Haitian independence. Osprival Descommme is a Haitian NGO director. Both have visited Haiti recently, and in collaboration with members of a local Haitian community are currently operating and developing a school in the Artibonite Valley, Haiti.*

**To donate to the project, you can make out a check to Osprival Descommme, and send it to Mabie Settlage, 2158 W. 75<sup>th</sup> St., L.A. CA 90047.**

## Iroquois Nationals, Nationalism and Exception

By Flint <http://flintultrasparc.livejournal.com/64552.html>

Recently, I posted a number of articles about the Iroquois *Nationals* difficulty with using their Haudenosaunee passports to travel to the World Lacrosse Championship in Manchester. I was asked if this was exceptionalism or if I accepted nationalism. Well, first of all, I want the Iroquois to beat the pants off England. More seriously, I believe in the free migration of people. People have a ‘human right’ to self-determination. What constitutes a state is a fine discussion to have, though I think most human polities fall between the poles of anarchy and totalitarianism and I prefer the kind that lean towards the anarchy side.

As to nations: I believe nations exist at the very least as a social construct among those who self-identify with a nation. I think they can be limiting in ways and definitely fray towards the edges. When nationalism is tied to the state, all kinds of bad things happen including the stagnation of culture. I think the Six Nations have a far better claim to being a “nation” than perhaps some others. I’m really not caught up on defining what *is* and *isn’t* a nation though... If the nation is not the ideology of a coercive state, it really doesn’t matter whether someone isn’t national enough for whatever definition is being used.

As to nationalism: I support working class struggles against political and economic imperialism, racism, genocide and colonization. Which is not to say that I support the formation of a new minority ruling class that will engage in political domination and economic exploitation. People have a right to participatory decision-making if the decision effects them... people have a right to decide what happens to the landbase they live upon and have done so for some time.

To take it out of the abstract, I found it easy to support the Six Nations Reclamation of the Douglas Creek Estates in regards to the province of Ontario and the municipality of Caledonia. The Estates were a gentrifying land grab that was by no means necessary, a speculative real estate endeavor for private profit. The city of Brantford, 30 miles away is tearing down a whole street of adequate buildings. Unlike Caledonia, Brantford has a larger highway, a rail hub and far more urban density. The national identity of the 6

Nations is important to the whole situation. It’s the unifying narrative of the community resisting and it’s the historical basis to why there’s a Six Nations at Ohsweken, a Brantford and a Caledonia at all. The Reclamation began as a non-violent sit in, but the Ontario Provincial Police decided to escalate and violently enforce a claim of ownership backed up by a judge who also claims ownership on a disputed part of the Haldimand Tract. After the police violence was opposed, folks started whipping up racist sentiment among some Caledonians against the 6 Nations. The national aspect shouldn’t be ignored here in addition to the class character of the conflict and the ecological and community aspects. They thought they could get away with it because of how the Canadian state has treated indigenous nations. In living memory, Canada used to steal their children and hand them over to residency schools--they probably thought they could get away with seizing more land for private profit.

### Play Ball!

When it comes to whether some world championship quality Lacrosse players ought to be able to fly to the championship, and compete in the game that their ancestors invented, and to do so in as a team constituted among the nations that invented the game, and in honoring the treaties going back centuries, and that they should do so with identity documents which acknowledge that history, and since travelling that way has been legal for centuries and permitted all up until NOW... I’m clearly with the Iroquois Nationals on this. Let them play!

One aspect of the Iroquois Nationals which I find politically fascinating is that it’s not a national team, but rather a team of a confederacy of distinct nations who share a common history, language and cultural similarities. Haudenosaunee, traditionally, is a confederacy of distinct nations and not a nation unto itself. As a contrast, when it comes to the Oneida nation, I think Arthur Raymond Halbritter is a petty dictator and capitalist exploiter willing to use violence to increase his power and money through the Turning Stone Casino.

**continued on bottom of next page (see “Haudenosaunee”)...**



# Demand an End to Philippine Military Attacks on Youth Activists

by Eric Tandoc, Anakbayan-Los Angeles, [info@anakbayanla.org](mailto:info@anakbayanla.org)

Anakbayan-Los Angeles member Hiyasmin Quijano received alarming news that her cousin, Ivey Tañedo, was being stalked and harassed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Quijano stated, “I’ve heard of these attacks on activists before, but it didn’t become real to me until I had to deal with it in my own family.”

Thousands of flyers demonizing Tañedo, a 24-year-old student leader at the University of the Philippines, as well as fellow students Mark Velasco and Randili Elec, were posted and distributed in several barangays and college campuses in Southern Tagalog. The flyer warns that Tañedo is “an ordinary and simple woman, but hidden in sheep’s clothing is a fierce enemy of the people.” Tañedo is a compassionate leader of GABRIELA and Anakbayan in Southern Tagalog. She works tirelessly with the community to promote youth empowerment, protest the displacement of people whose homes were demolished for development, and call for an end to all human rights violations.

Under the policies of Oplan Bantay Laya (OBL) [Operation Freedom Watch]—the U.S.-funded counter-insurgency program that seeks to “strategically defeat” the New People’s Army -- the AFP targets legal progressive organizations and activists like Tañedo as “enemies of the state.” As a result of OBL, thousands of activists and community leaders have been harassed, abducted, and killed. Among these victims are University of the Philippines student activists Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan, who were abducted and tortured by the military in June of 2006 while conducting research.

After only one month in office, President Aquino’s administration has already committed five extrajudicial killings, following the same program implemented by former President Arroyo. The victims include college students and two teachers.

Aquino must end Oplan Bantay Laya and recognize that these killings are not the result of “personal feuds” but are a direct result of the repressive state policy that falsely tags legal progressive organizations as communist fronts and state enemies. The Aquino administration

must implement measures to hold its armed forces accountable and ensure a policy of “no harassment, abduction, or killings” of activists. According to Bernadette Ellorin, Chairperson of BAYAN USA, “The new Aquino administration’s decision to officially extend

the counter-insurgency program known as Oplan Bantay Laya (OBL) can only signal an aggravation of the already acute human rights crisis in the Philippines. OBL was concocted in 2001 and re-launched in 2007. In both cases, it failed to meet its objective to annihilate the so-called armed insurgency in the Philippine countryside. OBL was also heavily scrutinized and condemned worldwide by international human rights bodies, including the UN, for targeting unarmed civilians critical of the Philippine government,” she says.

“Essentially an assassination, abduction, torture, and red-baiting campaign, OBL bears a strong resemblance to the US-funded and designed Operation Phoenix during the 1960’s in Vietnam,” Ellorin concluded.

Nearly \$1 billion worth of U.S. military aid and materiel has been granted to the Philippines since 1999. “I don’t understand why our tax money is being used to target activists like my cousin when we have such a serious financial crisis here in the United States,” said Hiyasmin Quijano. Anakbayan demands that President Barack Obama immediately terminate any U.S. funding of the Philippine military and instead allocate funds for much-needed social services and education in the U.S.



Written by: Melissa Roxas  
Illustrated by: Franz DG

## Haudenosaunee/Iroquois Nationals’ Right to Travel

...continued from bottom of previous page

I generally favor the efforts of Oneidas for Democracy; and I think Halbritter shows the kind of man he is by uprooting the tree of peace that Jake Swamp planted to try and encourage peace and reconciliation.

When it comes to things like tobacco and firearms trafficking or the relocation of established community residents by decree of recognized Indian governments using such criteria as blood quanta I am considerably more conflicted. Rarely do I think forced population transfers are good thing.

Keep in mind... I am very distant to all these struggles; and have only once been to Kahnawake. It’s really not my place to be throwing a lot of judgements around; but I can’t help but have opinions, and I’m offering them here to explain how my own politics address the contradictions of being an anarchist in a world of states, and being an internationalist in a world of nations (an internationalist is not the same thing as an anti-nationalist). Personally, I try to take up T-Pain’s banner “My country is the world, and my religion is to do good.” Merely surviving day to day causes me to constantly sacrifice pure political principle. That said, I still find those principles useful for informing my actions and deciding upon my pragmatic choices.

I have developed an appreciation and fondness for what I understand of Iroquois culture. Part of that comes from seeing similarities between political ideas I have and historical

aspects of the traditional Haudenosaunee polity--though it goes beyond that. I hope those cultural aspects I appreciate would not disappear from the world. I would also hope that the Iroquois culture would be a living, changing, evolving culture. I think that tradition has a lot of values I prefer over some contrasting values of the society within which I was raised... though even those traditional values I admire are as much in need of reconstruction as they are in sustaining.

There are many other aspects of my life that conflict with my anarchist values far more than my appreciation of the Iroquois *Nationals* or my support for their right to travel on their own national passport. I am in a wage labor relationship with a private employer, I use currency, I pay taxes, I have a U.S. passport, a state issued ID by Maryland, a 401K tied up in mutual funds, and private health insurance. I’m a joint owner in automobile, and I have a lease with a landlord. Most of that also wouldn’t be part of my anarchist utopia.

Oh, did I mention that I want the Iroquois *Nationals* to beat the pants off of England?

Bump hips!

-- Flint

For more information on Haudenosaunee struggles, check out <http://sisis.nativeweb.org/actionalert/>



Death Row Interview with Mumia Abu-Jamal:

A Journalist on Death Row

http://en.rsfs.org/united-states-mumia-abu-jamal-i-am-an-outlaw-03-09-2010,38278.html

On August 29th, 2010, Reporters Without Borders Washington DC representative, Clothilde Le Coz, visited Mumia Abu-Jamal, prisoner on death row for nearly three decades. Ms. Le Coz was accompanied by Abu-Jamal’s lead attorney, Robert R. Bryan, and his legal assistant, Nicole Bryan. The meeting took place in room 17 of the State Correctional Institution (SCI) in Waynesburg, Greene county, Pennsylvania.

**Reporters Without Borders:** As a journalist who continues to work in prison, what are your latest reports focused on?  
**Mumia Abu-Jamal:** The prison population in the United States is the highest in the world. Over the past year, for the first time in 38 years, the prison population declined. Some states, like California or Michigan, are taking fewer prisoners because of overcrowding. State budgets are restrained and some prisoners are released because of the economic situation.

Prisons in America are vast and the number of prisoners is immense. It’s impressive to see how much money is spent by the US government and how invisible we are. No one knows. Most people don’t care. Some journalists report when there is a drama in prison and think they know about it. But this is not real : it is sensationalist. You can find some good writings. But they are unrealistic. My reporting is what I have seen with my eyes and what people told me. It is real. My reporting has to do with my reality. They mostly have been focusing on death row and prison. I wish it were not so. There is a spate of suicides on death row in the last year and a half. But this is invisible. I broke stories about suicide because it happened on my block.

I need to write. There are millions of stories and some wonderful people here. Among these stories, the ones I chose to write are important, moving, fragile. I decide to write them but part of the calculation is to know whether it’s helpful or not. I have to think about that. As a reporter, you have a responsibility when you publish those kind of stories. Hopefully, it will change their lives for the better.

**Do you think the fact you were a reporter affected your case ?**

Being the “Voice of the Voiceless” played a significant role. And this expression actually comes from the title of a Philadelphia Inquirer headline after I was arrested in 1981. As a teenager, I was a radical journalist working on the staff of the Black Panthers national newspaper. The FBI was actually monitoring my writings since I was 14. My first job was being a reporter. Because of my writings, I am far better known than any inmate in America. If it were not the case, I think there would have been less pressure for the Court to create a special law to affect my conviction. Most of the men and women on death row are not well known. Because I continue to write, this is an element that would have affected the thinking of the judges and made them change the ruling for not giving me a new trial. I think they were thinking “You’re a big mouth, you won’t get a new trial”. You expect a little more from a federal Court. Because of my case, a dozen of other cases can be affected.

**What do you think of media coverage of your case?**

Once, I read that I was no longer on death row. I was sitting here when I read it. I haven’t stopped sitting here for one second.

Because I was coming from the craft, a lot of reporters did not want to cover my case because they feared they would be attached. They had to face criticisms for being partial and sometimes they were told by their editors they could not cover it. Since the beginning of the case, people who could cover me best were not allowed to. Most of reporters I worked with are no longer working. They retired and nobody took the work over.

But the press should have a role to play here. Millions of people saw what was done in Abu Ghraib. Its leader, smiling on the pictures that have been published, worked

here before going to Abu Ghraib. In death row, you have people without a high school degree who can decide whether someone lives or dies. For whatever reason, they have the power to make you not eat if they don’t want to. And none of that power is checked by anyone. There are informal rules. These people can make someone’s life a living hell on a wink. When I chose which stories I want to write about, I am never short on material. From a writing perspective, this field is rich.

No matter what my detractors are saying about me, I am a reporter. This country would be a whole lot worse without journalists. But to many of them, I am an outlaw reporter. Prior to prison, in my work for various radio stations, I met people from all around the world and despite my conflicts with some editors, I had the greatest job.

**The support you receive in Europe compared to the support you receive here in the United States, is very different. How do you explain the difference and do you still believe international mobilization will be helpful ?**

Of course it will. The European mobilization might be pressuring the US regarding the death penalty. Foreign countries, like European ones, went through a specific history of repression. There was an in-their-bones-knowledge of what it is to be in prison. They know about prison, death row and concentration camps. In the US, very few people had that experience. That speaks to how cultures look at things in the world. In Europe, the very ideal of death penalty is an anathema.

9/11 changed a lot of things in the US. People challenging or opposing the government would not be supported anymore. The press also changed. Things that were “allowable” became unacceptable after 9/11. I think 9/11 changed the way people thought and it changed the tolerance of the media. For example, even though 9/11

happened in Manhattan and Washington DC, the jail was closed for an entire day, here in Pennsylvania, and we were locked down.

**To motivate more people around your cause, it might be helpful to get an up to date picture of you, today, on death row. Does the fact that we don’t have any updated picture of you affect your situation and the ability of more people to mobilize around your cause?**

Having a public image is partly helpful. The essence of an image is propaganda. Pictures are therefore not that important. The human image is the true one. There, I try to do my best. In 1986, prison authorities took recorders from reporters and you were only allowed a pen and a paper. Now that there is only the meaning of one article left, one can make monsters and models from his article.

**If the Supreme Court agrees on a new trial, only your sentence will be reviewed. Not your conviction. How do you feel about staying in prison for life, if you are not executed?**

In Pennsylvania, life sentence is a slow death row. And under the state law, there are 3 degrees of murders. The first degree is punished by life sentence or death. The second and the third ones are punished by life sentence. People do not get out. The highest juvenile rate of life sentences is here in Pennsylvania. But here is my point, in Philadelphia, there were two other cases around my time where people killed a cop. The first one got acquittal. The second once, caught on a surveillance camera, did not get a death sentence.

**How do you manage to “escape” death row?**

I have written on History, one of my passions. I would love to write about other things. My latest works are about war, but I also write about culture and music. I have an internal beat that I try to keep through poetry and drums. Very few things have matched the pleasure that I get from learning music. It’s like learning another language. And to write, that’s a challenge ! A music teacher comes every week and teaches me. A whole new world is opening to me and I get a better grasp of it now. Music is one of the best thing mankind has done. The best of our lives.

For further information and to offer support for Mumia Abu-Jamal, contact:  
Law Offices of Robert R. Bryan,  
2088 Union Street, Suite 4,  
San Francisco, CA 94123-4117  
<http://www.MumiaLegalDefense.org>

Petition also available from our website

*Reporters Without Borders defends imprisoned journalists and press freedom throughout the world. It has nine national sections (Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland). It has representatives in Bangkok, New York, Tokyo and Washington. And it has more than 120 correspondents worldwide.*

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75002 Paris - France

“No Surrender” Anti-Fa Mixed Martial Arts Tournament

In October 2010 the Third International Mix fight Tournament “No surrender!” will take place among antifascists of Europe in Moscow Russia. The tournament, is organized, spearheaded by, and involves active antifascists from Eastern Europe. It traditionally gathers sportsmen and viewers, from different cities and countries, who have a clear antifascist approach to life. The first and second “No Surrender!” tournaments were devoted to the memory of our comrades - Fyodor Filatov and Ivan Khutorskoy, who were killed in the struggle against neo-Nazis in Moscow. The third part of the tournament will be dedicated to everybody who still fights against Nazism, social injustice, and repression from the State. To everybody who didn’t yield under pressure, who is in being actively opposed to ultra right wing extremists and the repressive state apparatus itself.

For many of us the freedom to express our antifascist position has become dangerous to our health, life and freedom. Street fights between our like-minded peers and neo-Nazis become more violent, confrontations with far right extremists take place during political demonstrations and ecological pickets. This war is taking place not in order to take power on the streets, but in order to take part in social protest actions too. Law enforcement agencies create special departments against “youth extremism”, whose sole activity is to frame criminal cases against antifascists. Many of our comrades are put into prisons. Life dictates new violent terms for our fight.

Keeping present-day conditions in mind, we consider that martial arts should occupy an important place in the life of everyone who calls himself an antifascist. We also think that people who consider themselves part of the antifascist movement should be sober, disciplined, and ready for any type of scenario and how to apply force on the streets.

Sport should be a means to achieve our common aims. Nobody will protect us except ourselves.

The tournament “No Surrender! - 3” is organized in order to further popularize the sport among antifascists, as propaganda for a healthy way of living and in order to strengthen the brotherhood between members of different cities. The tournament is dedicated to everyone, who still believes in our ideals and continues the struggle.

To take part in the tournament you should send a request to this e-mail:  
**[nesdavaisya3@gmail.com](mailto:nesdavaisya3@gmail.com).**

The rules of the tournament, exact dates, invitation and venue of event will be sent later to the provided contact.

(for flier: <http://avtonom.org/node/13147>)



**Support Luke Querner**  
anti-racist skinhead  
shot on March 27, 2010 in Portland  
donate on [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) to  
[luke.solidarity@gmail.com](mailto:luke.solidarity@gmail.com)



# ENDORSEMENTS IN PACIFICA/KPFFK LOCAL STATION BOARD ELECTIONS

A crisis is facing the Pacifica network and US society. KPFFK and other Pacifica stations must live up to the mandate of their mission at this critical moment of war, racism, social conflict, environmental devastation and economic hard times. Yet under current mismanagement and governance, the stations and foundations are marching towards corporatization and irrelevance. A few years ago, KPFFK played a leading role in bringing all anti-war groups in LA together to build a coalition of coalitions for a single joint united anti-war protest. The general manager went to New Orleans to assist the survivors of Katrina, racism and government malfeasance. The station had an activist orientation coming off the successful struggle to democratize Pacifica and reverse the corporate agenda. It restored previously banned and fired programs of color like Freedom Now and American Indian Airwaves, and added Spanish and indigenous language programming. This inspired listeners to action. Audiences grew and the station held routinely short, successful million dollar fund-drives.

This year, as KPFFK and the other Pacifica stations have tried to ‘mainstream’ and ‘whiten’ their sound, they have become increasingly irrelevant to and disconnected from grassroots communities in survival struggles over unemployment, imprisonment, foreclosures, gentrification, militarization of schools and the border, ICE raids, and

## Vote for Aryana Gladney, Lawrence Reyes, Michael Novick, Brenda Medina, Lydia Brazon, Chuck Anderson and Ron Spriestersbach for KPFFK Local Station Board by September 30, 2010.

Excerpts from:

# The Conspiracy Industry and the Lure of Fascism

by Bill Weinberg, *World War 4 Report*

New York’s WBAI FM—of the progressive Pacifica Network, where I’m a producer—unfortunately provides a case study in the increasing embrace of right-wing conspiracy theory by the remnants of the left. WBAI has followed the same trajectory as many of progressive inclination since 2001. What began as an examination of anomalies in the case of 9-11 has lured some of our best minds down a black hole of irrationality that leads to fascism.

### Critical Inquiry versus Conspiranoia

Before detailing the dynamics of this deterioration, we must distinguish between legitimate critical inquiry and a state of perpetual paranoia about conspiracies in high places, in which the improbable and impossible is treated as a *fait accompli* if it supports the proffered theory. It may begin with pre-planted explosives or missiles bringing down the Twin Towers, but it doesn’t end there—because once you abandon reason, anything goes. Those who raise criticisms are accused of supporting the “official story.” This is where the distinction is critical. It has to be made clear in this context that conspiracies exist. Contragate was a conspiracy; Watergate was a conspiracy; and whoever was behind 9-11, it was a conspiracy. Conspiracies exist, and are worthy of examination. The fallacy is the “conspiracy theory of history,” the notion that conspiracies explain everything that’s wrong with society. This is a reversal of reality. It is political economy that explains what’s fundamentally wrong—power relations and wealth inequities. The conspiracies are a symptom of the prevailing political economy—just like war, terrorism and fascism.

Fascism is predicated on the notion that there’s a hidden elite—whether it’s Jewish bankers or, in updated versions, the Trilateral Commission, Bilderberg, Illuminati or shape-shifting reptilians (about which more later)—who control everything, and are “the” problem. The obsession with hidden elites serves to let off the hook the real elite in plain sight. The problem ultimately is that we live under the capitalist system. That’s why conspiranoia is inevitably a useful tool of those who seek to distract us from class analysis. The conspiracy theory of history has right-wing roots, and remains a phenomenon of the right. Its origins are in the writings of the reactionary 18th-century Jesuit Abbé Barruel, who blamed the French Revolution on the Templars. A century later his template was transformed into the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* [basically a translation of the Abbé’s work concocted by the Czarist secret police]. This document first emerged along with the pogroms; Jewish villages were attacked as Jews were scapegoated for the rising revolution in Russia. It was adopted by Hitler to justify his Final Solution. Conspiracy theory is what fascism gives the “Little Man” instead of fundamental change in the system or overturning oppressive power. Especially with the Tea Party poised to exploit the ongoing economic agony in America with further scapegoating, we must not fall for it.

### The Slippery Slope to Shape-Shifting Reptilians

WBAI’s embrace of conspiracy theory started with the 9-11 musings of the *Loose Change* videos, the first to be offered as fund-drive premiums. But it got increasingly sinister and wacky from there. Eric Hufschmid, producer of the *Painful Deception* video, has a website full of anti-immigrant xenophobia and Holocaust revisionism. Of course, he uses the soft-sell approach—there isn’t any in the 9-11 video. Go his website to see that he’s a xenophobe and revisionist (read: likely Nazi-nostalgist).

Finally, in summer 2010, WBAI crossed the line, promoting a real neo-Nazi: former British sportscaster David Icke, who hawks the book *Alice in Wonderland and the World Trade Centre Disaster*. You don’t have to dig deep to find Icke’s Nazism. In the material WBAI aired, Icke spoke about the Bilderbergs and the Illuminati. What he says lies behind the global power nexus can be found at DavidIcke.com. In Icke’s world, behind the the Bilderbergs and the Illuminati is the Rothschild banking family and associated powerful Jews—who are held to be literally inhuman. They are reptilian aliens from the Fourth Dimension who have shape-shifting abilities and can assume human form. (I’m not making this up—go to the website.)

The ideology behind all of this comes straight out of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, the notorious anti-Semitic forgery that was a pillar of Nazi propaganda. Icke’s bizarre zeitgeist is a reworking of the *Protocols*, which he extensively cites on his website. The shape-shifting reptilians are admittedly Icke’s own twist. But it’s a common device of DIY Nazism to assert that the Jews are non-human. Christian Identity, which pervades much of the rural radical right in the US, believes only the white race is truly human; the others are sub-human or non-human. Brown-skinned “mud people” are sub-human. Jews are the non-human offspring of Satan. Both must be exterminated, the Jews with greater urgency due to their greater power.

police abuse. As a result, month-long fund-drives fail to meet their goal, requiring additional mini-marathons to try to make up the shortfall, further alienating listeners. At KPFFK, a coalition, GrassrootsKPFFK, endorsed by ARA-LA/PART, is running a slate of candidates for the LSB – Aryana Gladney of the Black Riders Liberation Party, Lawrence Reyes of the Puerto Rican Alliance, *TTT* editor Michael Novick, Brenda Medina, graduate student in Chicano Studies and former UCLA radio producer, Lydia Brazon of the Humanitarian Law Project, Chuck Anderson and Ron Spreistersbach. Similar slates are running at WBAI and KPFA. Check [www.grassrootskpffk.net](http://www.grassrootskpffk.net) for more info. This LSB election may be the last chance to restore Pacifica to its mission. You can check out the principles of the LA coalition at [www.grassrootskpffk.net](http://www.grassrootskpffk.net). I’ll bet you agree with them, but the key is to implement them, to energize the station through a dialogue with listeners and the larger community. This requires electing grassroots activists from communities of color in particular, engaged in daily resistance. If you’re a KPFFK listener-sponsor, vote for Aryana Gladney, Lawrence Reyes, Michael Novick of ARA-LA/PART, and the other GrassrootsKPFFK candidates. You can check out slates at the other stations through [www.pacificaresistance.org](http://www.pacificaresistance.org). If you’re a member and don’t have your ballot yet, check with 866-peace01 or [les\\_kpffk@pacifica.org](mailto:les_kpffk@pacifica.org).

were of the bloodline and also Freemasons and Satanists. They were manipulated into office, and their country’s war effort funded, by the Rothschilds and the other Illuminati bloodlines.”

Icke asserts: “These people are NOT Jews, they’re a non-human bloodline with a reptilian genetic code who hide behind the Jewish people and use them as a screen and a means to an end.” He seems to think this disclaimer lets him off the hook for anti-Semitism. In a page on his website boosting the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, Icke writes: “I speak for Jews who oppose this secret plan which was concocted by Cabalist bankers and rabbis centuries ago and revised periodically. These self-appointed Jewish leaders have put all Jews in jeopardy. They are establishing their world tyranny by stealth.” His tone quickly changes to a barely veiled threat: “All Jews will be blamed for the disproportionate role many Jews play unless more speak up and are counted.”

Icke has on his website a billboard placed in Iowa by a local Tea Party that reads “RADICAL LEADERS PREY ON THE FEARFUL & NAIVE” below photos of Hitler, Lenin and Obama. The photos are labeled “National Socialism, Marxist Socialism and Democrat Socialism.” Icke writes: “The billboard suggests Obama is a radical socialist leader similar to Hitler and Lenin. This is a true comparison... Obama, Hitler, and Lenin were all initially financed by Rothschild money... all three were puppets of the House of Rothschild.” Icke is on a spectrum with the Tea Party movement, which is being mainstreamed with terrifying rapidity. Whether Icke is delusional or a charlatan, it’s clear many Tea-Baggers think they’re anti-fascist—even as they embrace such fascistic elements as paranoid anti-communism, populism, and open racism.

### Leftists Take the Poison Bait

Why are WBAI and Pacifica, which should be a bulwark against fascism, promoting fascism? The left misses the boat on the populist lure of fascism, especially in its incipient phases. Before Hitler and Musolini cut their deal with big capital, they talked a vaguely anti-capitalist line. Then in 1934—the year after Hitler achieved power—the anti-capitalist brownshirt leaders were betrayed and killed in the Night of Long Knives. Hitler was consolidating his deal with German capitalists, the Krupps and Farbens, who would later use slave labor in the concentration camps.

Early fascism nearly always plays to populism and purports to mobilize the little guy against the all-powerful elite. Failure to grasp this is a grave error. The left uses the word “corporatism” to refer to fascism’s deal with the bankers and industrialists. That deal was a defining element of classical fascism, but that isn’t what “corporatism” meant. It referred to another element: the “incorporation” of populist institutions like trade unions into the apparatus of the ruling party. This element is invisible to nearly all on the left who warn of impending fascism. Blind to the populist element of fascism, we become vulnerable to its propaganda. Among those to exhibit this error is longtime left icon Fidel Castro. Havana’s elder statesman has been writing a blog, “Reflections by Comrade Fidel,” on the website of the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina. His Aug. 19 entry consists of an extended excerpt of *Secrets of the Bilderberg Club*. Fidel is quoting favorably. The quote includes a citation to far-right cult-master (and credit-card fraud felon) Lyndon LaRouche, in which he portrays the “Aquarian Conspiracy” of the “counterculture” as an insidious tool for social control. In the 1980s LaRouche was a big booster of Reagan’s “Star Wars” program, which was instrumental in driving Cuba’s Soviet patrons to collapse. In true fascist style, LaRouche weds paranoia about sinister banking conspiracies with a vicious anti-communism. Why is Fidel embracing a writer who embraces Lyndon LaRouche?<http://www.ww4report.com/node/8992>

### Anti-Fascist Rhetoric of Contemporary Crypto-Fascism

Today on WBAI, you don’t get very far openly calling yourself a Nazi. In fact, a standard contemporary invective is to compare present-day oppressors with the Nazis. How does Icke square this? By applying Hitler’s ideology and propaganda to Hitler himself. In Hitler’s world, everything bad was the creation of evil Jews in high places. So Icke says *Hitler* was created by the Rothschilds -- that Hitler was a Rothschild. And therefore Hitler, like most of those who run the world, was not human but a shape-shifting reptilian from the Fourth Dimension. Icke expounds this theory in a screed entitled “Was Hitler a Rothschild?” In a time-honored method, Icke mixes a few grains of truth in. Though considerably less so today, the Rothschilds were certainly a powerhouse of high finance in the 19th century, and funders of the early Zionist movement. But, betraying his hand quickly, Icke in the second paragraph refers to the Rothschilds as one of Europe’s “black occult bloodlines, ...working in league with the Illuminati House of Hesse.” They are “one of the top Illuminati bloodlines on the planet, and ...are shape-shifting reptilians.”

Icke seizes on a rumor that Hitler’s grandmother was impregnated by a Rothschild baron for whom she worked. Icke cites a book by US intelligence analyst Walter Langer, who looked into this theory after the war and in 1972 published his findings in *The Mind of Adolf Hitler*. If you read the book, you’ll find Langer ultimately decided the rumor was insubstantial. Icke however, has no doubts. “[T]here was no way that someone like Hitler would come to power in those vital circumstances for the Illuminati, unless he was of the reptilian bloodline,” he writes, adding that “the same bloodline has held the positions of royal, aristocratic, financial, political, military, and media power in the world for thousands of years [and] has produced ALL 42 of the Presidents of the US since and including George Washington in 1789... The World War II leaders Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin

**ANTI-RACIST ACTIONS**  
**CALENDAR**  
**SEPT.-OCT. 2010**

**Sept. 25: Celebrate El Grito de Lares**  
Puerto Rico's 1st Declaration of Independence  
4-8:00 PM 6457 Whittier Blvd., East L.A. 90022

**through 9/30 Vote GrassrootsKPFK**  
Aryana Gladney, Lawrence Reyes, Michael Novick, Brenda Medina  
Lydia Brazon, Chuck Anderson, Ron Spreistersbach for KPFK LSB

**Oct. 7: Defend Public Education**  
Statewide and National day of Protest against Privatization,  
Tuition hikes, lay-offs at UC, CSU, community college, adult & K-12

**Oct. 9: Stop the Death Penalty**

**Oct. 11: Indigenous Peoples Day**

**Oct. 22-23: Stop Police Abuse  
Justice for Oscar Grant**  
TTT Editor Michael Novick will be speaking at Firestorm Books  
Asheville, North Carolina

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**We Are All  
Oscar Grant!**

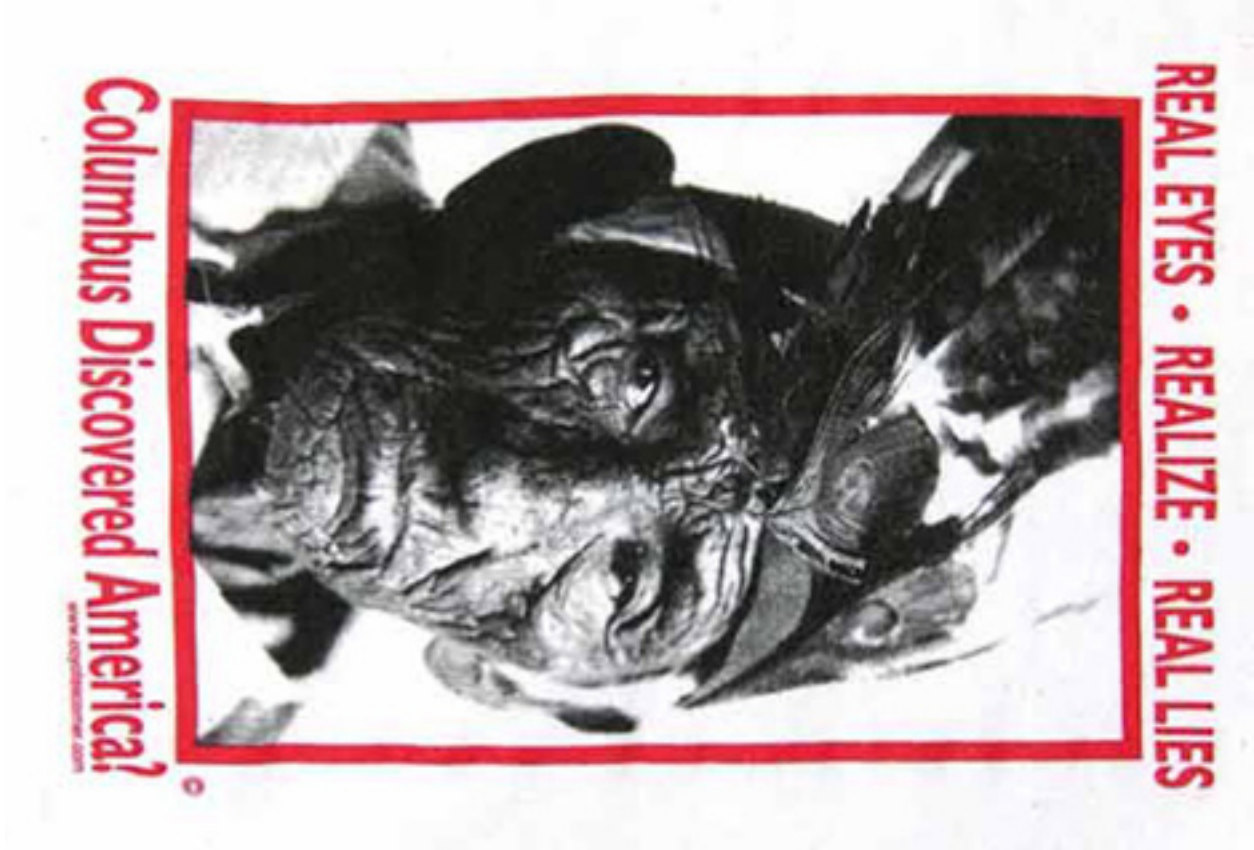
**Mumia: Death  
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**Antifa MMA**

**Haiti: Agony  
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