

Occupy May 1st General Strike

by Michael Novick, *Anti-Racist Action Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror*

Despite the physical eviction of many occupations, the Occupy movement is starting to demonstrate its tenacity and to sink roots. Occupiers have not been deterred by their internal contradictions or political diversity. In the face of police brutality and numerous arrests around the country, Occupiers continue to meet, study, and communicate. Adhering to principles of transparent horizontal democracy and consensus decision-making, they are still able to take significant actions. This is a testament to the depth of the systemic contradictions that are producing their opposition. It also reflects the rapid learning curve precipitated by both engagement in struggle and the technology and ideology of “open source.” The same leaps in information processing that have generated unprecedented productivity and eliminated tens of thousands of jobs even during the “recovery” are now fueling the development of political insight and solidarity. Meanwhile, the economic realities manifested in the Census analysis that shows almost half the US population living in or near poverty have underscored the need for radical approaches.

In December, we published a special “Occupy” edition of *Turning the Tide*, (on-line at www.antiracist.org) focusing on the importance of anti-colonial politics. We identified the necessity to address issues of indigenous sovereignty and settler colonialism. This is particularly important because Occupy Wall Street and the spontaneous outpouring of resistance it inspired, base themselves on the concept of re-occupying the “commons.” Unlike in Europe or Africa, where the commons is the remnant of earlier, land-based economic and social formations, the “commons” in the US context was based on the conquest and expropriation of indigenous land, and the collaboration of settlers in that process. This ongoing reality of land theft leaves an indelible imprint on class and national formation and identity in the US. In addressing foreclosures and other manifestations of class and colonial contradictions between the ruling elite and the 99%, for example, Occupiers must address the reality that in the US, all private property in land, all so-called “title,” is based on that original theft.

The Occupy movement originated in a cross-class response to only the most recent manifestations of corporate greed and anti-democratic concentration of wealth and power. However, lessons being drawn from both state repression and internal political struggle and reflection have served to radicalize and deepen the commitments and comprehension of many Occupiers. This is not uniform, and it does not yet guarantee that the Occupy movement will be able to overcome privilege and steer clear of the forces seeking to reabsorb it into neutered electoral identification with the Democrats. It doesn’t mean that Occupy has internalized anti-colonial or even thoroughly anti-capitalist politics. But in practice, many Occupations are seeking alliances with the most oppressed and exploited, correcting their understanding of the nature of policing and other repressive aspects of this society, and charting a course of independent, autonomous and direct political and social action. This bodes well for Occupy’s future prospects.

This is particularly manifest in the push towards a General Strike on May 1, International Workers’ Day, which commemorates the anarchist-led general strike for the eight-hour day in Chicago in 1886. In Los Angeles, in early November, barely 5 weeks into the Occupation, there was a spontaneous and exuberant call for an immediate “general strike” to “shut down the ports.” This was in response to the actions taken in Oakland to counter the first brutal eviction of Occupy Oakland from Oscar Grant Plaza. This desire for radical action and solidarity, while understandable, ignored the differences between both the ports and the political environments of Oakland and Los Angeles. Occupy Oakland based itself on a deep and long-standing radical consciousness and practice, protracted recent struggles against police brutality, and a relationship with radical elements in the Black community and the labor movement, among other struggles. Furthermore, the Port of Oakland is compact and close to the location of the encampment, with a single entrance close to Black residential neighborhoods. None of those conditions pertained in Los Angeles. Here the Occupation was full of illusions about the “friendliness” of the police, many of the Occupiers had limited previous movement experience,

let alone radical activity, and the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are huge, remote and fed by numerous roads, highways and rail lines.

But a “port action/general strike” affinity group was formed, attracting support from the Occupy LA Labor Committee as well. The key political decision was made to connect the port action to the struggle of the port truck drivers, mostly Mexicano and Central American, who had twice before shut down the ports through industrial action, by withholding their labor, in conjunction with im/migrant rights mobilizations. Consensus was reached to build a relationship with the port truck drivers and other port workers. We laid out a political rationale of exposing the damage the rule of the 1% at the ports, symbolized by the Goldman Sachs owned shipping company SSA Marine, had done to entire economy. We set the date of the proposed “Occupy the Ports” action for December 12, the day of an already scheduled immigrant rights mobilization on “el dia de la Virgen de Guadalupe.” We framed the port action as the first step towards a general strike on May 1. May Day, which has been cut off from its roots in the US and celebrated mostly by small socialist sects, has in recent years been revived and made a mass phenomenon by im/migrant workers, particularly from Mexico and Central America. In Los Angeles in particular, May 1st has seen rallies of over a million people in the streets, in response to repressive anti-immigrant legislation and with the involvement and encouragement of the organized labor movement, which has developed a fundamental orientation towards immigrant workers’ rights. These two key decisions gave Occupy LA about a month to build the port action, and to do so with a longer-term orientation of internationalism and labor solidarity towards May 1 and beyond.

Occupy LA reached consensus to establish a General Strike Preparation Committee, to work with the Dec. 12 (immigrant rights) Coalition, port truck drivers, longshore, warehouse and other port workers, community residents, unions, and Occupy Long Beach to plan and organize the Dec. 12 actions. Simultaneously, the decision was made to develop alliances in the process with organized and unorganized labor, student and community groups to prepare for and build towards a General Strike on May 1, 2012, and to call on other Occupations to act on Dec. 12 and May 1.

The rationale given was significant. The GA agreed that “the 1% are depriving port truck drivers and other workers of decent pay, working conditions and the right to organize, even while the port of LA/LB is the largest in the US and a huge engine of profits for the 1%. The 1% have pursued a conscious policy of de-industrialization that has resulted in ‘trade’ at the port meaning that there are 7 containers coming in for every one going out. The 1% have driven migrant workers into a ‘grey market’ economy and repression. The 1% use police brutality and repression, jails and prisons to suppress, divide and try to silence the 99% and all who oppose their insatiable greed. To put an end to all that, we call on the 99% to march, boycott, occupy the ports, and STRIKE on December 12 for full legalization, good jobs for all, equality and justice. The port drivers and other workers have the power to push forward the kind of change we need. By building towards a General Strike, we can spread the Occupy movement and sink roots in the 99%.” This consensus overcame the incessant infighting between reformist and radical views over relations with the police and the city government.

Going forward, it helped create a pro-active dynamic that enabled the Occupy movement to take the initiative in confronting and overcoming the repressive actions directed against the Occupy LA encampment, so that when the encampment was evicted, organizing for Dec. 12 was already well advanced. We were able to move ahead despite other significant setbacks. The ILWU international issued a statement disowning the west coast port action as a “third party” matter. Good Jobs LA, a project of the SEIU, which had originally supported the LA “Occupy the Ports” project, backed away at that point. But Occupy persevered. Despite 300 arrests at City Hall during the eviction, we were able two weeks later to mobilize more than 700 people to the harbor area in Long Beach in pre-dawn darkness and pouring rain. Demonstrating that Occupy was alive and kicking despite the eviction, we successfully tied up a facility of SSA Marine for many hours. In fact the response of the port police and people’s defiance of them impacted far larger areas of the port on both the Los Angeles and Long Beach sides. We established relationships with port workers and their unions and networks. Many port truck drivers did stay out that morning. ILWU clerks went out on strike a few days before, and we walked the picket lines

with them before they were ordered back to work. Good Jobs, which took some Occupiers from around the country to DC, discovered that their infectious spirit of resistance also applied to top-down labor organizing. L.A. Occupiers who went to DC spread word of the General Strike call.

A significant sector of the Occupy movement is now building towards a General Strike as a form of direct action to mobilize the power of working and oppressed people. This has served as a frame for other protests, marches, actions, occupations, civil disobedience, educational activities and outreach we engage in. It helps counter efforts to divert Occupy into partisan electoral politics. It provided a concrete way of addressing the fundamental economic problems and system underlying the current crises of debt, housing, unemployment, and corporate domination of politics. It also put the Occupy movement squarely into the camp of struggling for im/migrant rights. We were initially only partially successful in spreading this understanding to other Occupies. The Occupy Oakland call for a “west coast port shutdown” on the date we chose for our “Occupy the Ports” action did specify solidarity with the port truck drivers as well as with the ILWU. But now building towards May 1, this support for im/migrant rights is spreading throughout the Occupy movement, reflecting the widespread growth of the indigenous/Mexicano and Meso-American population throughout the US, and its centrality to the US labor force.

The port action, and the call for a General Strike that we reiterated in its aftermath, are helping break the sense of defeatism and isolation that has held us back individually and collectively. The May 1 General Strike provides a way to cohere our disparate efforts. It makes it possible to connect im/migrants rights struggles, occupations, student activism, labor actions, prisoner resistance, or consumer boycotts into a common and mutually reinforcing framework, where each action or component builds upon the last and builds up towards the next. In Los Angeles, we learned several tactical and political lessons from the Dec. 12 Occupy the Ports action that have helped shape and improve on-going work.

First of all, in reaffirming the General Strike, we established functional organizing subcommittees that could engage and involve the Occupiers in day to day organizing and alliance building. Organizing meetings have often been larger than the General Assembly itself, and we have taken our outreach to Occupy the Rose Parade and Occupy the Dream efforts at the Martin Luther King Day Parade, presenting a radical alternative within those celebratory spectacles.

Second, we strengthened the politics behind the general strike by reaching consensus on six key points expressing why we would be undertaking a General Strike: For im/migrants rights! For economic, social & environmental justice and labor rights! For peace with justice! For civil liberties-end the police state! For housing, education & health care as human rights! For women’s rights & gender equity! Although this program is neither explicitly anti-capitalist nor anti-colonialist, it unites significant radical democratic elements in a mutually reinforcing way. It allows for the expression of particular demands by sectors, nationalities and movements that engage with the general strike, for example, ending mass incarceration and the new Jim Crow or freeing political prisoners.

Third, we have given ourselves enough lead time to spread the call throughout the Occupy movement nationally and even internationally, and to navigate through the knotty contradictions within the labor and immigrant rights movements we are seeking to ally with. In both those movements, there are strong, institutionalized ties to the Democratic Party, a manifestation of identification with the oppressor and with the Empire. This has demonstrably weakened and hamstrung those movements again and again. Occupy is bringing its radical oppositional critique, horizontal organizing strategy, and commitment to direct, autonomous action independent of partisan electoral affiliation into the situation, pushing for a General Strike. This will push the envelope within both those movements, and within Occupy itself, towards resolving those contradictions in a revolutionary direction.

For more information and to get involved, please communicate with the General Strike Preparation Committee of Occupy Los Angeles, which has set up a website – www.occupymay1st.org – as well as a phone and email contact point: **323-250-MAY1**
occupymay1st@gmail.com.

And get involved in the Occupy near you to push for building the May 1 General Strike in your area.

Predators, Pimps and Leonard Peltier

by Corine Fairbanks, American Indian Movement

I attended the LEONARD PELTIER WALK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS on Sunday December 18, 2011 in San Francisco. I appreciated the messages of unity, peace and hope from the Elders who spoke on Alcatraz and again at the press conference on Pier 33. However, sometimes I find myself becoming angry at these types of events and these are a few reasons why.

The American Indian Movement has been fighting the “New Age” movement for over 30 years now, and that “movement,” really a business, supports a billion dollar industry. For all of the rhetoric that these predators use, such as: “Love & Light,” and “Be the change you want the world to be,” they execute strategic marketing plans in order to profit from selling and desecrating our ceremonies, sacred objects, and medicines.

These New-Agers are white collar pimps. They prostitute our spirituality and culture to whoever has a buck to spend. In doing so, they export it all over the world, yet never once take a moment to identify us as real people, with real needs and real life-and-death issues. Real Native nations and spiritual leaders are united in support for Peltier, while these “new-age” fakers and their funds are nowhere to be found.

Then there are costume companies and clothing companies, that capitalize on cheap imitations of Native American regalia. You know the kind I am talking about, the “Native Poca-Hottie” Halloween costumes that non-Natives seemed determined to wear. Even famous actresses wearing cheap mock war bonnets think it is chic and sexy. Here again, how much of the profits go back to Native people?

All of the billions of dollars generated by both of the above business ventures and nothing comes back to our Native communities. No funding comes back to our food and Social Service programs, veteran programs, let alone to Leonard Peltier and his defense committee and legal fund. Our communities are in need of funding; whether they be in an urban setting struggling with poverty, or with our relatives still back in our homelands, some of them freezing to death because they can not afford to buy heat for their homes.

We need to pin these “pimps” to the wall! We need to make them accountable to the appropriation and exploitation of our culture

and spirituality – and make them hurt where it can only hurt with these predators -- through their wallet. At the end of the day, how many of them laugh at us while counting change from all the sales they have made?

Who is Leonard Peltier? The FBI, CIA and US of A don't want you to know who he is. They want us to forget. They want us to forget we are still at war. They want us to forget we are still kept as hostages in our own lands. They want us stuck being

worried on our 9 to 5 jobs.

They want our people sedated on video war games. They want us preoccupied by fluff “media”, with random facts and trivia keeping our communities anesthetized

Who is Leonard Peltier?
He is a warrior
He is a political prisoner
He is a prisoner of war

Through our social media, AIM Southern California and AIM Santa Barbara website we have literally thousands of “friends.” Yet why are they not here at this event? Most of them claim to be Native or Indigenous, yet why have they not participated or demanded Peltier's release? Even one dollar from a thousand people could move mountains on some of these issues and help educate more people in who Leonard Peltier is. How many “Native” or “Indigenous People” have even ever heard of Leonard Peltier? How many know of the personal sacrifices this warrior and his family have made and the outcome of these sacrifices?

If you say you are American Indian, or Indigenous, you have a responsibility to do something to make our communities better. We have a responsibility to become the media. We have a responsibility to be present, work in the **NOW** and educate our communities. We need to come together and brainstorm on what **WE** can do to catapult our issues up and into the arena where dominant non-Native society will be forced to deal with it and come to the table to help problem solve. The United Nations Declaration of Indigenous People is a good tool we can start using to implement change in our communities. We can use the DRIP document to stop pollutions and toxins being dumped or mined on our lands, stop gang injunctions, and we can use this tool to free Leonard Peltier.

Individually and as people, we have to make this commitment of ACTION. We need to follow the examples and the role modeling that these elders, here, have done for us. We are elders in training and they are showing the way to keep our cultures alive and thriving. Our Elders, our ancestors, our languages, our ancestral ways are the key to our survival and our success in the present and future.

As Native people we need take the time to critically think how we can make people accountable for the “cultural prostitution” and exploitation being committed against our Nations. We need to pressure these businesses to make restitution to our communities. We need to ask ourselves how can we continue to educate others about who Leonard Peltier is, and what we can do to demand Leonard Peltier's release. How can you help these walkers and runners of the Peltier Walk with their prayer in motion?

Even a dollar is a blessing- think about it, if everyone gave \$1- that would enough to move mountains or at least help free Leonard Peltier.

www.Leonardpeltierwalkforhumanrights.com <http://www.whoisleonardpeltier.info/>

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK

FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

- 1) WE GO WHERE THEY GO:** Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!
- 2) WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US:** This doesn't mean we never go to court, but the cops uphold white supremacy and the status quo, They attack us and everyone that resists oppression. We must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.
- 3) NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS:** In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.
- 4) We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom.** ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people.

We want a free classless society. **WE INTEND TO WIN!**
Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)

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Discussion Paper On Immigration 2012

by the *Mexican National Liberation Movement (Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional Mexicano /MLN-M)*

The recent history of the Mexican people in the United States of America clearly shows that we as a community started out on the right track by attempting to transform our situation and to create a better life for our children. However, much of the energy that we generated in the year 2005 was quickly taken away from us by the powers that be.

The Catholic Church, along with the Labor Unions, could not allow the Mexican people to start to define for themselves what we needed as a people. They could not let the feelings of our people run free. They felt like they had to corral that energy and so they moved to harness all of our people's energy and redirected all our momentum down a road that they picked for us the road towards reform. They said to us that we had to exercise our power within the parameters set down by the Democratic Party, Labor Unions and the Catholic Church.

These institutions could not allow for an independent base to emerge within the confines of the United States. So the only way to harness this power was to direct it in the direction of political reform and completely away from the direction of independence, which the powers-that-be knew that the United States population would never accept.

Those of our people who were first generation or second generation bought into the whole question of democracy, while never understanding historically what the Mexicans that had lived here since the termination of the Mexican American war had experienced. And so they took our people down the road to reform, and what transpired was the corruption of all that energy, the same energy that could have given us some form of substance, methodically evaporated into nothing.

We must look to what has historically transpired with the Mexican population since the Alamo, or since the Mexican American war. We're a very resilient people but we have to make some historical analysis of our current situation. We as Mexicans are the only people that had a war waged against them and who also reside within the confines of this country. The Mexican American War followed the Alamo and the annexation of Texas.

Because of this, we cannot allow the criminalization of our people and the term "illegal" to be applied to us as humans. We must counter this attack with the fact that the United States stole and plundered our land and raped our people. We as Mexicans have a right to be here on our land. We have to fight for this position as the Empire is engulfed in wars of conquest in the Middle East.

How can this Empire propose democracy in the world and build a wall of infamy against our people? We as a people have to rise up to their challenge as original people in the Americas, as the original inhabitants of Turtle Island. Why do we want to be part of an empire that is destroying people in all parts of the world? This is the same empire that has created the conditions in Mexico where 51 % of our people live in poverty and 25 % live in extreme poverty. This means that only 20 % of our people are making it. This is a reality that all of Latin America currently faces.

As Mexicans and Latinos we must understand what is happening in our homelands to be able to wage a struggle to emancipate our people -- be it in Mexico or all of Latin America. All people who come here from all the different parts of the Americas have to understand that these territories, the seven states that were plundered during the Mexican American war, are all part of occupied Mexico. This is why we have to have a different view on the question of immigration. For the Mexican people, this is really a question of migration from one part of our country to the other.

People who choose not to hear this really do not understand history -- you can distort it but you can never change it. As Mexicanos we are part of the original people of the Americas, and because of this, we can never turn our backs on our history, as it is the door that will take us to our future.

There can never be any reform for us in this empire because this empire was never created to accommodate us; it was created to plunder and rape our natural resources and our Mother Earth.

If we as a people believe that we can accommodate ourselves to this empire, then we have to also face the reality of going all over the world to kill people in their own homeland, so that the empire can take control of their natural resources and gain control of

the almighty dollar. If that's what you as an individual are willing to do to accommodate yourself to be a part of this country, then you have lost touch with your humanity.

We as a people have to fight on both sides of the imposed border to affect change and to align ourselves with what really represents humanity and learn from other people in the world who have fought for the independence of their countries. Let us band together with the other five and a half billion people that work every day for fifty cents, one dollar or two dollars a day. In the words of Mao, we must "organize the many to defeat the few." It often seems like such an insurmountable task, but everywhere in the world there is poverty and there is struggle, and even though it has its own dynamics, we have to understand why this situation exists. We have to stop blaming ourselves for our own oppression.

The following legislative actions prove the historical contradictions of the so-called democracy of the United States. The original fugitive slave act of 1793 was a federal law that was written with the intention of enforcing Article 4- section 2 of the US Constitution.

In 1850 the only people who had to deal with the question of papers and legality were African Americans. In recognition of southern support for California's admission to the union as a free state and ending the slave trade in the District of Columbia, Congress enacted the Fugitive Slave Act to assist the south with maintaining a tight rein on slaveholders' property. Existing laws had created a system designed to enforce the institution of slavery. Southern states usually had slave codes that prevented slaves from being at large without a pass. All this is very similar to Apartheid/ South African pass laws and today's papers for undocumented immigrants.

The key word in all of this is racial profiling. This new Fugitive Slave law declared that any federal marshal or other official who did not arrest a runaway slave was liable of receiving a \$1,000 fine and six months in prison. Law enforcement officials everywhere now had a duty to arrest anyone suspected of being a runaway slave based on no evidence other than a claimant's sworn testimony of ownership. Any individual providing food or shelter was subject to six months' imprisonment and a \$1,000 fine. The new laws created a new force of federal commissioners empowered to pursue fugitive slaves in any state and return them to their owners. No statute of limitations applied, and so even those slaves who had been free for many years could be and were returned to the slave traders. All this sounds like the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, known as I.C.E.

The Fugitive Slave Act was passed and used against the African American community from 1850-1865. From 1865 to 1965, Jim Crow type laws were used to control all aspects of African Americans' lives in the US.

The Chinese Exclusion Act was passed by Congress in 1882 and signed into law by President Chester Arthur. A ten-year moratorium was passed in the first federal law that proscribed entry by an ethnic working group on the premise that it endangered the good order of certain localities.

In 1924 after the assassination of Zapata, Villa and Magon and the termination of the Mexican Revolution, the border patrol was created to maintain the division and control of the Mexican people. The border patrol agents were recruited from the AZ, CA and Texas Rangers.

The first wave of massive deportations occurred between 1929 and 1939 during the Great Depression years, beginning under the Herbert Hoover administration, when a million were deported to Mexico. This is not included in the history textbooks, due to the fact that out of the one million deported, 600,000 were Mexican Americans, legal citizens born in the United States.

This was followed by the interment of Japanese Americans in 1942. 110,000 Japanese Americans were sent to internment camps. Executive order 9066 was issued Feb. 19, 1942 and signed into law by Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1944 the Supreme Court upheld the

Constitutionality of the Internment order. The United States census bureau assisted the interment efforts by providing confidential neighborhood information on Japanese Americans. Those that were as little as 1/16 Japanese could be placed in internment camps.

Following this, and not to be out done, in 1950, President Truman's Administration instituted Operation Wetback and deported one million two hundred thousand Mexicans. To name the deportation act "Wetback" was a racist vilification of our people.

The attacks on the Mexican community continued. In 1994 after campaigning for Proposition 187 in California, Governor Pete Wilson was reelected on the anti-Mexican wave that was created by Proposition 187. This proposition prohibited an education for the children of undocumented immigrants, as well as denied them all social services. This law was later rescinded, as it was declared unconstitutional.

Proposition 187 was the start of a new wave of repression that was unleashed by the fascist sector in the United States against the Mexican people. Earlier, in 1986, California passed the English Only law that was also aimed at the Mexican community. This English Only movement was spearheaded by the Federation of American Immigration Reform (FAIR), an organization headed by John Tanton, an individual known for his anti-immigrant views. FAIR received funding in the amount of \$1.3 million from the Pioneer Fund. This fund was established in 1937 and was based on the Nazi philosophy of Eugenics.

In 1996 the Bill Clinton Administration picked up on the California proposition and signed into law the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act [IIRIRA], which did two things. It expanded the number of deportable crimes, and made non-citizens who were subject to removal liable to be detained without being able to post bond. This was followed by "Operation Gatekeeper." Operation Gatekeeper created the new corridors that would eventually build the first walls on the San Diego and Texas side, while pushing migrants to cross through the Sonora Desert. It is estimated that 4,000 to 12,000 migrants have lost their lives since the passing of Operation Gatekeeper.

In 2003, the Department of Homeland Security, ICE, and the Office of Detention and Removal (DRO) met to develop a document entitled "Endgame." Endgame is a 10-year strategic plan to pursue, arrest and deport every undocumented person in the country by 2012. According to the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights' report, entitled "Injustice for All: The Rise of the U.S. Immigration Policing Regime," it developed the infrastructure for a future "Immigration Policing Regime" and repression in the form of Raids, Racial Profiling, 287(g) Police/ICE collaborations, the creation of more Detention and Deportation facilities, and the Secure Communities program.

In 2005 the U.S House of Representatives approved the Sensenbrenner law [HR 4437] that criminalized not only undocumented immigrants but also anyone who offered them moral or material support. Note that Sensenbrenner had a business investment in the Olive Branch Restaurant chains that employed undocumented workers.

Senate Bill 1070 was passed in April of 2010 by the legislature of the state of Arizona. 1070 was introduced by Republican State Senator Russell Pearce. Russell Pearce has ties with Neo Nazi organizations, and also attends rallies while conducting speeches before many of their groups. The main author of SB 1070 is Kris Kobach. Kobach is a law professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Kobach also works for FAIR. The Koch Brothers funded American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) also had a role in spreading SB 1070 as "model legislation" for other states. Kobach now advises Romney.

Kobach has a long history of involvement in Kansas politics, as he was once a Republican candidate for congress in 2004. According to several newspaper articles, many contributions to his campaign came from white supremacist groups. Kobach and his cronies, all legal conspirators, made the concept of "rational suspicion" a standard for determining who is or isn't an undocumented immigrant. Let us apply this concept to them and see where it leads us. Senate Bill 1070 violated the U.S. Constitution, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, [United States / Mexico 1848] and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. **See p. 6**

Of Idiots - and Sages

[col. Writ 1/11/12] © 2012 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

How much is your child worth? How much is your grandchild worth?

These are not trick questions. They arise from the news that North Carolina recently announced cash compensation to thousands of survivors of their State sterilization program that ran from 1929 to 1974 ~ an astonishing 45 years!

North Carolina was but one of many mostly Southern states that sterilized people whom it considered as 'defective'. In this, they were supported by authorities as august as the U.S. Supreme Court, which, in its now-infamous *Buck vs. Bell* (1927) decision, found that a state could properly sterilize its citizens, and citizens had no constitutional right to oppose it, for, in the words of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes: "Three generations of imbeciles are enough!"

A North Carolina task force recommended payment of \$50,000 for each survivor.

North Carolina shouldn't be the whipping boy here, for such practices took place nationally with Federal government support. Historians and scholars Mary Frances Berry and John Blassingame, in their 1982 work, *Long Memory: The Black Experience in America* (NY, Oxford University Press) tell us that as late as the 1970's, the U.S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare were "forcing 100,000 to 150,000 people to be sterilized annually"! [p.353] Over 90% of these people were Black.

This horrific state practice and the U.S. Supreme Court's chilling reasoning in support thereof, gives us some insight into how social prejudices and attitudes percolate into all sections of society and despite their self-evident madness are seen by seemingly enlightened sectors as perfectly reasonable only to be later tarnished as repellent with the passage of time.

If a state, or nation, could sterilize its own so called 'citizens', deny people the right and ability to have children, what is such a state (or nation) but a dictatorship of arrogance and power?

One day, perhaps sooner than we suppose, we shall look back at the phenomenon of mass incarceration and the prison industrial complex as proof of a mad society.

Perhaps such a future state will pay reparations ---(oops) ...er, I mean compensation to their survivors in 75 or 80 years.

If any survive.

WWW.FREEMUMIA.COM

Mumia Abu-Jamal, AM 8335, SCI-Mahanoy, 301 Morea Rd., Frackville, PA. 17932

According to Bret Grote of the HRC, "While PADOX operates in a seemingly arbitrary nature, there are some factors that place prisoners at high risk for being kept in long-term solitary confinement: 1) being a political activist or jailhouse lawyer; 2) race; and 3) mental illness. Those who file grievances about staff misconduct or lawsuits about civil and human rights violations are routinely subjected to repressive treatment. Andre Jacobs and Carrington Keys, two members of a group of prisoners known as the Dallas 6, have been held in solitary for approximately 11 and 9 years respectively as a result of their speaking out against torture and other human rights violations inside PA's control units." He continued: "Regarding race, the disparities within the solitary confinement population may be the most extreme in the entire criminal legal system, which is saying a lot. We do not know the exact figures because the demographics are not public, but reports of solitary units overwhelmingly comprised of people of color in PA prisons are common."

"Over the last thirty-plus years there has been a national trend of warehousing those with mental health needs inside prisons. These people often end up in prison, because of their difficulties in adapting to life outside the walls. The stresses of prison can lead to them getting in trouble with prison authorities due to an inability to follow the rules, which leads them to solitary, which leads to a worsening of their underlying psychological state. This cycle of dysfunction is a normative feature of prison systems across the U.S. This nexus of retaliation, racism, and abuse of the mentally ill is widespread in PA prisons."

Ten Extra Years Spent On Death Row

In 2001, following US District Court Judge William Yohn's ruling, Abu-Jamal could have been transferred from solitary confinement on death row at SCI Greene, and into general population. If transferred, he would have had more freedom, including contact visits with family and friends. However, Judge Yohn granted the motion by the DA to keep Abu-Jamal in punitive conditions on death row while the DA appealed Yohn's ruling. As a result, Abu-Jamal stayed on death row during an appeals process that lasted almost ten years, a process that has now resulted in lifting the sentence.

Fighting for Mumia's Release

While Abu-Jamal and his international network of supporters celebrated the final overturning of the death sentence, it was a bittersweet victory for a movement that has long fought for his release. In 2008 when the Third Circuit first affirmed Yohn's 2001 ruling, the Court also ruled against a new trial on the original charges, effectively ending that avenue of appeal for Abu-Jamal to be released from prison.

At this point, a new trial will likely require the bringing forth of new evidence. The investigation of police and prosecutorial misconduct, including the suppression of crucial evidence and the intimidation of witnesses could also lead to a new trial. These are the avenues that will be pursued to obtain Mumia's freedom. Among the new evidence that has come out in recent years, Philadelphia journalists Linn Washington Jr. and Dave Lindorff have recently performed a ballistics test fundamentally challenging the DA's shooting scenario/theory used to convict Abu-Jamal.

In Philadelphia on December 9, the 30th anniversary of Abu-Jamal's arrest, supporters organized a large event at the National Constitution Center that was attended by over 1,000 people. Declaring that a sentence of life without parole is unacceptable, speakers ranging from author/activist Cornell West to Ramona Africa of MOVE & the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, pledged to continue fighting for Abu-Jamal's freedom. Pre-recorded video messages to the December 9 event were delivered by author/activist Michelle Alexander and the internationally renowned human rights activist Desmond Tutu.

As Grote of the Human Rights Coalition says: "It is absolutely critical to the fate of movements for social justice in this country that the situation of prisoners and the function of prisons in the social order take a central role in our analysis and practice. Everybody can correspond with a prisoner, help out a local group, get on email lists, and research the reality of the prison nation. It is not the land of the free, never was, never was intended to be, and the sooner we disabuse those around us of that notion the better chance there is to win some badly needed victories. There is no dream too big and no action too small, let's keep at it til the walls crumble."

Contact the PA Secretary of Corrections. Demand that Mumia be transferred to general population and demand the shutdown of RHU (Restricted Housing Units)!

John Wetzl, Secretary Department of Corrections, 2520 Lisburn Road, P.O. Box 598, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0598, (717) 975-4928, ra-contactdoc@pa.gov

Supporters Demand Transfer to General Population Torture of Mumia Abu-Jamal Continues off Death Row

by Hans Bennett of Prison Radio

On December 7, following the US Supreme Court's refusal to consider the Philadelphia District Attorney's final avenue of appeal, current DA Seth Williams announced that he would no longer be seeking a death sentence for the world-renowned death row journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal--on death row following his conviction at a 1982 trial deemed unfair by Amnesty International, the European Parliament, the Japanese Diet, Nelson Mandela, and many others. Abu-Jamal's sentence of execution was first "overturned" by a federal court in December, 2001, and during the next ten years, he was never transferred from death row at the level five supermax prison, SCI Greene, in rural western Pennsylvania.

Shortly after the DA's announcement in early December, Mumia Abu-Jamal, now 57 years old, was transferred to SCI Mahanoy in Frackville, PA, 100 miles from Philadelphia. Once there, it was expected that he would be released from solitary confinement and transferred into general population where he would finally have contact visits and generally less onerous conditions. However, he was immediately placed in "Administrative Custody," in SCI Mahanoy's Restrictive Housing Unit, where his conditions of isolation and repression are now in many ways more extreme than they were on death row.

Presently at SCI Mahanoy, Mumia Abu-Jamal is shackled around his ankles and wrists whenever he is outside his cell, even to the shower and during already restricted visits--where he is already behind Plexiglas. Before going to the yard he is subject to strip searches before and after the visit. He is only allowed bits of paper to write notes on, with a rubber flex pen, and four books (no shelves). He gets no access to news reports; his letters are delayed; Glaring lights shine on him 24 hours a day. He's allowed only one brief phone call to his wife and one to an attorney. He has no access to adequate food or commissary.

In the first week of January, at Abu-Jamal's request, supporters began a campaign directed at the PA Secretary of Corrections, SCI Mahanoy, and DA Seth Williams, demanding that Abu-Jamal be immediately transferred to the general population. The National Lawyers Guild (for whom Abu-Jamal serves as the Vice President) has released a statement and created an online petition demanding his transfer to general population.

Furthermore, Abu-Jamal has asked for supporters to not just call for his release from the hole, but to challenge the very practice of solitary confinement and what are called in Pennsylvania "Restricted Housing Units."

Challenging Isolation

Supporting Abu-Jamal's call to action, the Pennsylvania-based prison-activist organization Human Rights Coalition (HRC) explains that "Mumia may be in solitary, but he is not alone. The PA Department of Corrections (PADOX) holds approximately 2,500 people in solitary confinement on any given day, many of them for years at a time."

Excerpts from:

On Democracy, Matriarchy, Occupy Wall Street, & Food Security

An interview with Russell Maroon Shoats

<http://russellmaroonshoats.wordpress.com/2012/01/18/an-interview-with-russell-maroon-shoats-on-democracy-matriarchy-occupy-wall-street-and-food-security/>

Interviewer: *How would you define democracy?*

Maroon: Democracy is the ability of the individual to exercise self-determination in the core areas of economics, education, entertainment, labor, law, politics, religion, sex, war and peace; taking under consideration the need to both support and guide children until they can responsibly exercise those things on their own. What Marimba Ani calls “rhetorical ethics,” [or ‘lip service’] is the practice that has held sway [regarding] democracy. Now, however, more of the masses, globally, are accepting the fact that except for a small minority, democracy is something they do not exercise. So the question we must ask ourselves is “How do we construct societies where the individual is able to broadly exercise self-determination?”

Interviewer: *Do you find the concept of democracy to be useful to popular movements?*

Maroon: The exercise of democracy/self-determination is paramount at every stage of a popular movement, for such an effort to remain true to the word “popular.” After all, individuals usually feel a need to look out for their own interest, and to promote and support democracy/self-determination goes hand in hand with that need. If a popular movement deviates from that, then it too will fall into the practice of utilizing rhetorical ethics.

Interviewer: *What was the relationship between democracy and the Black Panther Party?*

Maroon: Here I’ll have to step on a lot of toes. The Black Panther Party (BPP) – which the Philadelphia Black Unity Council (my parent group) merged with in 1969 – was never a democratically run organization. It too used rhetorical ethics to justify its methods, both internally and to the public at large. It championed the Leninist vanguard party concept that had been used during the Russian struggle against the czar. I’ve been researching and studying those [parties] for about 40 years, and have yet to find a single vanguard party that really exercised what I have defined as democracy/self-determination. Such groups continue to champion the establishing of popular movements, but their motives are to try to control such movements and use them as a battering ram to weaken or defeat the state[. This is] in order to give the vanguard party a chance to try to seize state power, and then set themselves up as a new ruling elite. The histories of vanguard parties leave no doubt about that.

The BPP, however, was a youthful formation that served a historical service of giving youth of color – and later youth in general – an introduction to a form of radical politics that was little known to them. Little did they know that the methods they chose to use were contradictory to the ends they sought. Thus early on they began to experience friction from members believing the rhetorical ethics the leadership relied on, and the leadership’s failure to act towards the rank-and-file democratically, within the traditional vanguard party “democratic centralist” organizational rules. That forced the BPP leaders to resort to using naked terror and violence – both internally and within the communities (see what the womyn BPP head wrote in her book: *A Taste of Power*, by Elaine Brown). Eventually that and the struggle to keep the state from destroying them (see the FBI’s COINTELPRO program of unlawful actions against the BPP), along with their youthful inexperience, caused the original BPP to disintegrate, leaving members in prison, exiled, disillusioned and with shattered lives.

Unfortunately, newer BPP formations have not been provided with enough insight into this subject to help them fully weigh both the strengths and weaknesses of the original BPP. Indeed, some of the newer formations are hostile to any real critiques of the original BPP, a practice held in common with most Leninist vanguard parties historically. To the rescue have come the multiple popular movements that the Arab Spring has thrown up: Wisconsin, the Georgia and California prisoners’ actions, and Occupy Wall Street. Here [is] a promising trend that contains the seeds that can develop into a much-needed popular movement, that can be democratic and self-determining, and capable of challenging the minority for control.

Interviewer: *Would you say you are a latecomer to the feminist movement?*

Maroon: Yes! In fact, although I’ve been a committed activist since before the assassination of King in 1968, it’s only been in the last 6 years that I’ve been awakened to the best of what feminism is, and the history of that movement. Moreover, I’m ashamed to admit that in that area I too have long practiced a rhetorical ethic, in paying lip service to the idea that since before 1968 I was struggling for the uplift and freedom of all. [I] never fully grasped that my entire worldview rested on patriarchal/male supremacist ideas, notions and practices, feminism’s opposite and mortal enemy.

My comrade Fred Ho is the first person to put it all together for me. He made an excellent case of how the practice of matriarchy was once a widespread and egalitarian phenomenon, and why today we must again study how we can utilize some of those principles

in order to address the ills that humankind faces. Nonetheless, I was so stuck-on-stupid until I continued in my male supremacist ways. It took the writings of Stan Goff, a former career military man (Special Forces, Rangers, Delta Team) who had rejected the oppressive policies that he had spent his life defending, and adopted a form of radical politics and activism, to get my full attention. In Goff’s third book, *Sex and War*, he really got my interest by offering long and insightful quotes to bolster the points he was making, quotes by radical and feminist writers and activists. Passages so full of meaning they stimulated me to begin to research the full works of the womyn mentioned.

[These are] powerful feminists like Maria Mies, Vandana Shiva and Veronika Bennholdt-Thomsen, with groundbreaking books like *Ecofeminism* (Mies and Shiva), *Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale: Women and the International Division of Labor* (Mies), and *The Subsistence Perspective: Beyond the Globalised Economy* (Veronika Bennholdt-Thomsen and Maria Mies). I’ve learned more from [them] than most of what I thought the previous 25 years of study and activism had taught me. More importantly, those works and further study, reflection and discussions caused me to radically alter my worldview and political views. Thus, when comrade Fred Ho and I recently got together, I was finally ready to join his efforts, which you too can examine by e-mailing prefiguration@gmail.com.

Interviewer: *What are the strengths and weaknesses of the Occupy Wall Street Movement?*

Maroon: Occupy Wall Street (OWS) has brilliantly changed the narrative and relationships of opposing forces – not by the “occupations,” which by themselves could be equaled or eclipsed by a number of other street demonstrations. That’s not to belittle the beautiful and inspiring people of the OWS inspired occupations. The strategic strength and paradigm shifting breakthrough of OWS is encompassed in the “We are the 99%” slogan. That instantly won to our side 99% of the inhabitants of the globe! A master-stroke that forced the ruling minority into a defensive position that it will be extremely hard for them to get out of. Indeed, the ruling elite’s only responses have been to use police force, which leaves the OWS movement in control of the narrative, and those inspired by them are themselves thinking of ways that they too make their grievances known.

It’s like the rebellions during the 1960s: each fueled later rebellions, because the underlying conditions were so widespread, until there was not enough police/national guard to fully repress them. The genie was coaxed back into the bottle after billions were spent on social programs, [like] Johnson’s “Great Society.” Today, however, the ruling minority will be unable to co-opt the 99% financially, unless they commit “class suicide.” They would have to agree to reorder the system so radically, give back so much of the wealth they’ve stolen, they would “kill the goose that laid the golden egg.” The ruling minority won’t even accept the pleas of Warren Buffet and Bill Gates, who see the handwriting on the wall, to at least act like they care by paying their taxes.

Control of the narrative will be the main strength of the OWS movement for the foreseeable future. But in order to be more proactive, OWS must address a

glaring weakness: the disconnect between its activists and the exploited and super-exploited people of color – numbering in the tens of millions in the US, a segment of this country that has always suffered more than the rest of its 99%. I’ll not address how the global 99% breaks down in that regard, except to say that the global South has historically been at the bottom of the barrel in most respects. I know the US better, so I’ll address it here.

In the US, people of color – except for a minority of rich and middle class individuals – are worse off than the rest of the 99% (per capita) in every category. Homelessness, joblessness, home foreclosures, lack of health insurance, new diagnoses with HIV, deportations, immigrants’ homes broken up and separated, children in foster care, drug- and crime-ridden communities, imprisonment, probation or parolees, loss of voting rights and access to social welfare programs, horrible schools, toxic communities, and the list goes on.

The moral strength of OWS rests on its pledge to rescue this country’s vast “middle class” from further sliding backwards – into the poverty that the majority of the people of color find themselves in already. Yet the middle class is not yet ready to take the steps that are necessary to pursue a protracted struggle to reach those ends, and the people of color have yet to see that it’s in their interests to hit the streets in mass in order to alter the class composition and goals of this movement. Most people of color view OWS as a “white thing,” or so I’ve been told, not recognizing that their mass participation is needed to help OWS mature into a true mass movement.

To complicate this lack of participation by the people of color is the failure of their traditional “leaders” to mobilize them behind OWS. [This] is a product of these leaders’ egos: they feel jealousy and envy towards this young upstart movement, who have accomplished more in weeks than they have in the last three decades. And the hostility of OWS to the old charismatic leadership style – the “leaders” believe – threatens to make them useless; an extremely shortsighted calculation! In fact, their accumulated knowledge and experience could be invaluable if they would control their egos and begin to see themselves more as organic intellectuals. The spread of modern communications that the Arab Spring demonstrates makes that [old] style [leadership] superfluous, reactionary, and a drag on forward progress.

That said, it’s my belief that OWS and those traditional influential personalities within the people of color communities still desperately need each other! In *The Wretched of the Earth*, Frantz Fanon tells us that during the Algerian independence struggle the forward elements of that effort initially believed they could bypass the traditional leaders amongst the oppressed and go directly to the masses with their compelling logic and arguments against the French colonial system. They failed, however, and were isolated, killed, exiled and imprisoned. After studying things while in prison, they decided to seek the help of those leaders as a necessary compromise on their release; a position that later bore fruit, although both elements – the forward thinking fighters and the traditional leaders – continued to struggle to control the dynamics of the independence movement. OWS must pursue a similar strategy in order to acquire help in mobilizing the masses among people of color in the US. OWS must seek out not only the known influential individuals in the people of color communities, but also the smaller groups who are working for change. OWS can also launch their own initiatives in those communities – wherever that’s deemed possible and useful.

Interviewer: *What are economic alternatives to the current domination of big banks, war profiteers, and the profit-drive system?*

One aspect of the prefigurative work that strikes me as the bedrock is working towards food security. There’s no need to detail how fragile most people’s food acquisition is, as that relates to healthy food and terrible eating habits and subsequent poor health in this country. We are prisoners of the corporations that dominate everything we eat. And they actually mass produce, process and sell foods that have been proven – over and over – to be like slowly drinking poison – poison that’s profitable (for them). Thus, food security is designed to lessen our dependency on those corporations. Such an effort is already being carried out by the parent group of the prefigurative initiative that Fred Ho is a part of: Scientific Soul Sessions (SSS); at www.scientificsoulsessions.com.

For the full interview, see Russell Shoatz’s blog.

Ron Paul Was Implicated in 1981 in the Failed White Supremacist Invasion of Dominica

by Casey Gane-McCalla,

In 1981, a lawyer tried to subpoena Ron Paul to testify in the trial of Don Black, a Grand Wizard for the Ku Klux Klan who would later go on to found the white supremacist, neo-Nazi web-site, Stormfront. Black was charged along with two other Klansmen with planning to violently overthrow the small Caribbean country of Dominica in what they called “Operation Red Dog.” While a judge refused to subpoena Paul, Don Black would come back to haunt him many years later.

In 1981 a group of American and Canadian white supremacists lead by Klansman and mercenary, Michael (Mike) Perdue planned on taking over a small West Indian country called Dominica by overthrowing the government of Prime Minister Eugenia Charles and restoring its previous prime minister, Patrick Johns, into power. The group planned to create an Aryan paradise in Dominica and make money through casinos, cocaine and brothels.

On the day the group of white supremacists were supposed to travel to Dominica, they were arrested by ATF agents and were found with over 30 automatic weapons, shotguns, rifles, handguns, dynamite, ammunition, a Confederate flag and a Nazi flag. The plan would be dubbed “The Bayou of Pigs” after the failed invasion of Cuba.

The leader of the group, Michael Perdue, pled guilty to planning the coup and turned state’s evidence. Perdue testified that several other people helped organize and fund the coup, and that two Texas politicians were aware of the plan. Among those Perdue implicated were white supremacist David Duke, former Texas Governor John Connally and Congressman Ron Paul, whom he claimed knew about the plot.

A judge refused to subpoena Paul or Connally even though Perdue claimed both of them were aware of the plot. Don Black’s friend and fellow KKK Grand Wizard, David Duke was called to testify before a grand jury but claimed that he would take the Fifth Amendment and never testified. While Duke was never charged with a crime, several books points to Duke as the organizer who connected Perdue to the other mercenary Klansmen and the people who funded their endeavor. Everyone else implicated by Perdue was charged with the plot.

Perdue named three men as funders of the plot, L.E. Matthews of Jackson, MS, James C. White of Houston, and David Duke’s close friend and backer, J.W. Kirkpatrick. Kirkpatrick killed himself before he could stand trial and White and Matthews would be acquitted in court. Former Prime Minister of Dominica Patrick Johns was sentenced to 12 years in prison for his part of the plot. Michael Perdue, Don Black and seven other Klansmen were sentenced to 3 years in prison.

Ron Paul has never made a statement denying knowledge of the plot despite being implicated by Perdue and almost subpoenaed. Two of the people involved in the plot, Don Black and David Duke, have gone on to become two of the most prominent white supremacists of the modern era, and also two of Paul’s most controversial supporters.

Paul would be once again tied to Don Black 26 years after the “Bayou of Pigs.” After it was revealed that Black donated \$500 dollars to the Ron Paul Presidential campaign, the campaign refused to give it back. Paul was photographed with Black and his son by David Duke’s former assistant, Jamie Kelso, who was both an organizer for Ron Paul and the owner of white supremacist sites, WhiteNewsNow.com and TheWhiteRace.com, as well as moderating Black’s neo-Nazi web-site, Stormfront. Black was one of Paul’s most enthusiastic supporters and helped rally the white supremacist community around Paul, through Stormfront. Paul had printed praise of another Operation Red Dog planner, David Duke, in his newsletters and Duke returned the favor, calling him “our king” and endorsing him for President in his Libertarian run.

That wasn’t the only time Paul was tied to white supremacists. In the ’80s, Paul claimed that the best source of his campaign donations came from a list from notorious neo-Nazi Willis Carto’s publication, The Spotlight. In the 90s, Paul’s newsletters were originally discovered in an online neo-Nazi directory. As recently as 2006, Paul was scheduled to appear on “The Political Cesspool,” the radio show of David Duke’s white supremacist protégé, James Edwards.

[As reported on May 22, 1996 in the Dallas Morning News: “Dr. Ron Paul, a Republican congressional candidate from Texas, wrote in his political newsletter in 1992 that 95% of the black men in Washington, D.C. are “semi-criminal or entirely criminal.” He also wrote that black teenagers can be “unbelievably fleet of foot.” Dr. Paul, who is running in Texas’ 14th Congressional District, defended his writings in an interview Tuesday. He said they were being taken out of context. In the Ron Paul Political Report: “If you have ever been robbed by a black teenaged male, you know how unbelievably fleet of foot they can be.” Dr. Paul, who served in Congress in the late 1970s and early 1980s, said Tuesday that he has produced the newsletter since 1985 and distributes it to an estimated 7,000 to 8,000 subscribers. Dr. Paul denied suggestions that he was a racist and said he was not evoking stereotypes when he wrote the columns. He said they should be read and quoted in their entirety to avoid misrepresentation.

“In the [1996] interview, he did not deny he made the [1992] statement about the swiftness of black men. “If you try to catch someone that has stolen a purse from you, there is no chance to catch them,” Dr. Paul said. He also said the comment about black men in the nation’s capital was made while writing about a 1992 study produced by the National Center on Incarceration and Alternatives, a criminal justice think tank based in Virginia. Citing statistics from the study, Dr. Paul’s Report had concluded: “Given the inefficiencies of what DC laughingly calls the criminal justice system, I think we can safely assume that 95 percent of the black males in that city are semi-criminal or entirely criminal.” [In response to questions from the Dallas paper,] “These aren’t my figures,” Dr. Paul said Tuesday. “That is the assumption you can gather from” the report.” Later, Paul claimed that the original columns were not written by him.—*Ed.*]

Given the scrutiny given to presidential candidates, shouldn’t Paul’s connection to an attempted violent invasion of a small island by white supremacists be re-investigated? If the media investigates every accusation of affairs or sexual harassment for Herman Cain or Newt Gingrich, shouldn’t they investigate accusations that Paul knew about a white supremacist plot to violently overthrow the government of a small Black island, especially with Paul’s other connections to white supremacists?

<http://newsone.com/nation/casey-gane-mccalla/ron-paul-was-implicated-in-attempted-white-supremacist-island-invasion/>

MLN-M Discussion Paper on Immigration 2012

continued from page 3

Alabama’s H.B. 56 was passed on June 16, 2011. Five things we should understand about this law: H.B. 56 requires police to stop anyone who they suspect may have possibly broken a law, and inquire about their immigration status. Secondly, the new law makes it illegal for undocumented immigrants to enroll in or attend public colleges.

Thirdly, the new law makes it illegal for undocumented people to apply for or solicit work. Subsequently, this new law makes it illegal to rent property to those who are undocumented and lastly and perhaps most shockingly, the new law requires employees of public schools to determine and report approximately how many students -- children or teenagers -- are undocumented, regardless of how much proof may exist.

According to a report titled “Shattered Families,” a report from the Applied Research Center, the Obama administration has deported 46,000 parents of children who are U. S. citizens within the first six months of 2011. Government data shows a total of 397,000 expulsions in the entire fiscal year 2011. This means that “almost one in four people deported is the parent of a United States citizen child,” said Seth Freed Wessler, the report’s chief investigator and author.

After parents are deported, the researchers found that families remain separated for long periods, with child welfare agencies and juvenile courts often moving in to terminate the parental rights of deported immigrants. Children who don’t have other immediate family are then put up for adoption. The deportation of undocumented immigrants in 2011 has left 5,100 children languishing in foster homes.

The researchers concluded that controversial federal programs such as Secure Communities, which allows federal authorities to screen fingerprints of those arrested by local police in order to detect undocumented immigrants, has turned parts of the country into deportation hot spots “where families are being torn apart.”

All of the previously mentioned actions were taken against people of color. As we traverse through the door of United States history we should be able to have a clearer picture of

our future in this country. In seeking reform we have allowed the ultra right wing of the Republican Party, and the government in its totality, to criminalize a social working class movement by creating the term “Illegal Alien.”

We have to respond to the fascist alliance that has been formed by the ultra right wing of the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, neo Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan, Minutemen and the Tea Party. Let us begin to build a movement of our people that can defend our future generations.

In conclusion, we pose this question: Are the Mexican people affected by the question of Genocide?

Consider what the formal international definition of genocide as a crime against humanity is:

On December 9, 1948, Resolution 260 {III} A of the United Nations General Assembly adopted a “Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,” declared entered into force on the 12th of January 1951, stating:

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, is genocide, as such:

- A) Killing members of the group
- B) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
- C) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- D) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- E) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

MLN.M.

Jericho Amnesty Movement to Free All Political Prisoners National Meeting in Los Angeles, February 18-19

Even as political prisoners are being released in Burma (Myanmar) and Egypt, even Palestinians held by Israel, and elsewhere around the world, the U.S. continues to hold freedom fighters and political dissidents in state and federal prisons. Some of the longest held political prisoners in the world are being held captive here in the U.S. and in California. These unjust imprisonments have not only resulted in suffering and even torture for the individuals held, but they have served to damage the liberation movements and freedom struggles from which effective, principled leaders have been removed and isolated.

The targets of COINTELPRO (the FBI-led Counter-Intelligence Program that sought to destroy the Black Panther Party, American Indian Movement and other revolutionary forces) like Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal have been joined by a new generation of prisoners from the radical environmental movement, the Black Riders Liberation Party, the Occupy movement, and others. In addition, the assassination, incarceration of principled of principled grassroots leaders in the 1960s and '70s disoriented the transformational social and political struggle of that era.

The state's counter-revolutionary and counter-insurgency operations then began to spread to preemptive mass incarceration, particularly of Black and Brown youth, through the drug war, Three Strikes, gang injunctions and other repressive measures. Prison-within-a-prison control units and 24-

hour isolation, originally designed to isolate resisters and political activists from the general population, spread and became the norm in both state and federal systems. When COINTELPRO killed Fred Hampton and framed up Geronimo ji Jaga, there were about 200,000 locked up in all the prisons and jails in the U.S. Today, there are over 2,200,000 – 1/4 of all the prisoners in the world are incarcerated in the US.

Thus, the struggle to free political prisoners is integral to any movement for social and economic justice, particularly here in the US. Every such movement is inevitably greeted with repression, surveillance and infiltration by the state and attacks by other reactionary forces and elements in society. The situation of the political prisoners also focuses attention on the injustice of the entire "criminal justice" system and the prison-industrial complex of preemptive mass incarceration of youth of color. But in freeing our prisoners and resisting such attacks, we create a dynamic that strengthens the forces of liberation and builds communities of resistance. In recent months, we have overturned the death penalty against Mumia, won acquittals and dismissal of charges in the case against the San Francisco Eight, and built active legal/political defense campaigns around those arrested in the Occupy movement here in southern CA and nationally.

The Jericho Amnesty Movement to free all political prisoners invites your participation in this vital work, in writing to and materially aiding the prisoners, and in building survival programs like the Family Transport to Prisoners program and the Break the Lock prisoners' literature project. Jericho is holding its annual national meeting in Los Angeles this year, where LaaLaa Shakur, National Youth Coordinator of Jericho, serves as Chief of Staff of the Black Riders Liberation Party (BRLP). L.A. has one of the largest, most youthful and dynamic chapters of Jericho. Through the BRLP and Anti-Racist Action, which both participate



Jericho Amnesty Movement

National Meeting

Sat.-Sun. Feb. 18-19

**Southern CA Library for Social Studies
6120 S. Vermont Ave., L.A.**

Political-Cultural Event

Sat. Feb 18, 7-9:00 PM

**Danza Cuauhtemoc, Theater by
ex-PP Jihad Abdulmumit, Son Real
(jarocho music), Hip-Hop/Spoken Word**

Regional Gathering

Sun. Feb. 19 12-4:00 PM

**Come meet national & local leaders in the
struggle to free political prisoners and help
shape campaigns in CA and on the West
Coast for Romaine 'Chip' Fitzgerald, Ruchell
Magee, Dr. Mutulu Shakur,**

**General T.A.C.O. of the Black Riders,
Patrice Lumumba Ford and other political
prisoners in this region.**

**Donation requested for program and meals.
Jericho Amnesty Movement, L.A. chapter
323-901-4269**

**jerichoamnestylosangeles@gmail.com
www.the.jerichomovement.com**

in the local chapter, Jericho reaches out to hundreds and hundreds of prisoners throughout California and across the U.S.

The national Jericho meeting will also provide opportunities for local community people to participate. On Saturday evening, February 18 from 7-9:00 PM, Jericho will hold a political/cultural evening at the Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research, 6120 S. Vermont Avenue between Slauson and Gage in south L.A. The program will feature theater by former political prisoner Jihad Abdulmumit, the national co-chair of Jericho, along with Danza Cuauhtemoc, and performances by Son Real, a jarocho (Afro-Mexican) band, and hip-hop/spoken word artists from the Black community. The event will be a fundraiser for Jericho. A dinner will be served for an additional donation.

The next day, Sunday February 19 from noon to 4:00 PM, also at the Southern California Library, Jericho will host a local and regional gathering and community speak-out. People can learn more about and help shape campaigns on behalf of political prisoners in this region, including Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Ruchell Magee, Gen. T.A.C.O. of the Black Riders, and Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald, a former Black Panther who is one of the longest-held political prisoners in the world. There will also be opportunities to write to political prisoners, and to find out more about the Family Transport to Prisoners program and the Break the Locks literature to prisoners program. Lunch will be served for a donation.

For more information about those and other campaigns, including an educational film series about the political prisoners, letter-writing, visiting and providing educational resources and material support to political prisoners, join our list serve with news and updates about political prisoners and local activities:

**[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/
jerichoamnestycoalitionla](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jerichoamnestycoalitionla)**



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TURNING THE TIDE
An Injury to One is an Injury to All

May 1st General Strike

FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS:

Full Legalization for All! Stop Scapegoating Immigrants!
Repeal Federal, State and Local Anti-Immigrant Legislation!
Stop Sweeps, Raids, Vehicle Confiscation, Detentions and Mass Deportation!

FOR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & LABOR RIGHTS:

Stop Budget Cutsbacks on the Social Safety Net – Tax the Rich, End Corporate Personhood!
Create Living-wage Jobs and Guarantee the Right to Organize! Repeal NAFTA & CAFTA!
Reverse Global Warming and End Pollution of Air, Water and Soil!

FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE:

End all Overt and Covert U.S. Wars and Military Intervention!
Bring the Troops Home - Fulfill Promises to Veterans!
Respect Indigenous Sovereignty! End Racism and Colonialism!

FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES -- END THE POLICE STATE:

Repeal NDAA, Homeland Security and the USA PATRIOT Act!
End the Drug War! Stop Mass Incarceration and the New Jim Crow!
Stop Police Brutality and Prison Isolation! Free All Political Prisoners! Abolish the Death Penalty!

FOR HOUSING, EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE AS HUMAN RIGHTS:

Stop Foreclosures and Evictions- Principal Reduction Now! End Homelessness!
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Protect Reproductive Rights and Personal Privacy!

ARA-LA/PART endorses the call: No Work-No School-No Shopping-No TV-All Out in the Streets!



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GENERAL STRIKE MAY 1