

## PART's Perspective:

# Occupy: The Future

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

A key part of the corporate media's approach to sucking people into the swamp of the electoral charade, so as to regain the compliance, if not the consent, of the US populace, has been to write the premature obituary of the Occupy Wall Street movement. But as Mark Twain once said, "Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated."

Not only is Occupy alive and kicking and sinking roots, it is more necessary today than it was when it launched a year ago. Occupy has had some undeniable successes, most notably in thrusting the issue of economic inequality and the parasitic nature of the ruling 1% into the public discourse. But by almost every measure, the oppressive and exploitative social, economic and political conditions that gave birth to it are worse today than a year ago.

**46.2 million people now live below the poverty line**, the highest level in almost two decades, and more than on October 1, 2011. The share of Americans without health coverage fell slightly from 16.3 percent to 15.7%, but that's still 48.6 million people. Just like in the former Soviet Union after privatization, life expectancy for poor people with less than a high school education has been falling in the U.S. Life expectancy for white women without a h.s. diploma dropped 5 years by 2008, the most recent figures in a current study.

There's no question that the ongoing economic crisis and growing inequality have lowered life expectancy still further. US women have dropped from 14<sup>th</sup> to 41<sup>st</sup> place internationally in expected life-span.

**Median real household income fell 1.7% and income inequality rose in 2011.** The Gini index, a measure of inequality, rose 1.6 percent from 2010 to 2011, the first time the Gini index has shown an annual increase since 1993. Real income of the highest 20% rose 1.6 percent, and the top 5 percent of earners saw their incomes increase 4.9 percent. At the same time, the middle-income "quintiles" fell between 1 percent and 1.9 percent each. This year, the incomes of the poorest have dropped significantly again, a loss of almost 20% cumulatively since the start of the Great Recession in 2007, down from a little under \$15,000 a year to less than \$12,000 per capita.

**Global average sea level rose** at an average rate of around  $1.7 \pm 0.3$  mm per year from 1950 to 2009 and at a satellite-measured average rate of about  $3.3 \pm 0.4$  mm per year from 1993 to 2009. Overall, land and sea temperatures were fairly level for the year (the 4th hottest on record), but that's because of La Nina effects on the ocean. Land temperatures, particularly in North America, climbed dramatically. Arctic sea ice was reduced to a record low, and drought and record high temperatures have been unrelenting. Corn crops in the US have been decimated.

**A new CSU tuition hike would require students to pay \$58 million more next year.** Total student debt in the U.S. now exceeds \$1 trillion, and is climbing (see the Student Debt Clock for updating figures:

<http://www.finaid.org/loans/studentloandebtclock.phtml>

**A flood of foreclosures in states that make it a judicial process swelled** in the aftermath of the \$25 billion foreclosure abuse settlement, signed off on in April by the Justice Dept. and state Attorneys General. It gave lenders a slap on the wrist by paying off cash-strapped state governments and a green light when pursuing foreclosures, allowing many banks to push more cases through the pipeline. Illinois, where foreclosures were up 42% year over year, and Florida, where there was a 16% annual increase in August, now claim the two highest foreclosure rates. They dethroned Arizona and California because their foreclosures shot up, not because AZ and CA have dropped much. In Illinois, one in every 298 properties has been hit with a foreclosure filing.

**There are now about 24 vacant homes in the U.S. for every one of the estimated three-quarters of a million unsheltered people.** Of course, this doesn't count the largest and fastest-growing public housing system in the country -- prisons and jails. Over 2,300,000 people are incarcerated on any given day in the U.S. with an additional 5 million plus under some form of custodial supervision such as probation or parole.

**Federal immigration authorities deported a record number of undocumented immigrants** in fiscal year 2011, nearly 392,000 people. Another 429,000 people were detained by I.C.E., also an all-time high (not counted as incarcerated). The annual number of deportations doubled from the start of Bush's first term to the end of Obama's. The federal government is on track in 2012 to deport more parents of legal U.S. citizen children than were deported in the prior 10 years combined! Obama's executive action for the "Dreamers," youth brought to the US and raised here without papers, is really a "Delayed Departure" program, meaning people who come forward to participate are just

dropped to a lower priority for deportation. Many have been separated from their parents, and all have been denied access to medical care.

**More than 300 people have been killed by police in the U.S. in the first 9 months of the year.** Annually, police report more than 400 "justifiable homicides" by law enforcement. As reported in the last issue of *Turning the Tide* in a study by the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, looking at Black people alone, every 36 hours one is the target of an "extra-judicial" killing by law enforcement, private security, vigilantes or organized racists. In addition, internalized racism results in Blacks killing Blacks, Raza killing Raza, and Black-Brown inter-communal violence. **A Black male youth in Harlem, NY who reaches the age of 15 has only a 37% chance of surviving to the age of 65.** Excess mortality rates for Black people compared to whites exceeds a factor of 4 in many poor communities. Yet benefits under Social Security have been reduced until age 67, so many Black males never receive benefits.

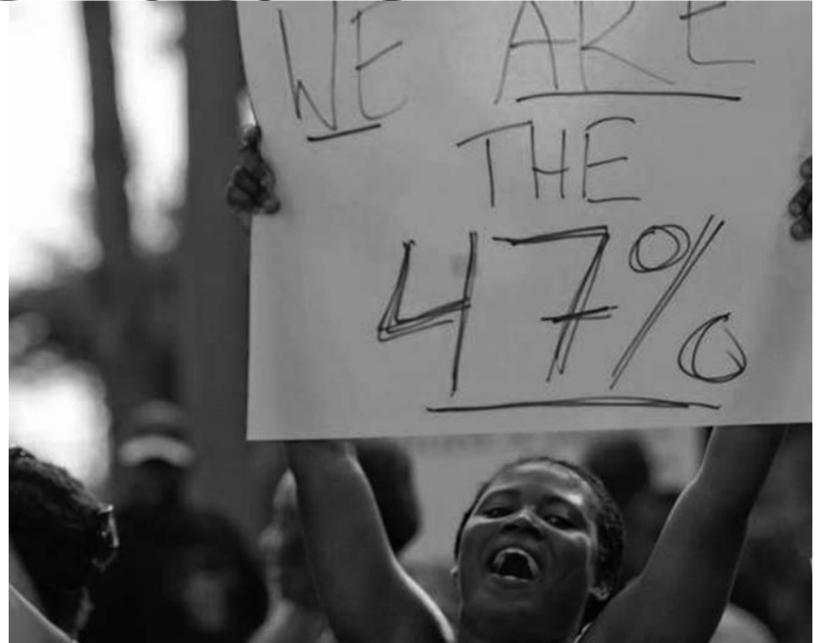
**Political repression has worsened dramatically in the year since Occupy Wall Street and Occupy L.A. were launched.** In addition to the massive coordinated police attacks on free-speech encampments, we saw the passage of the NDAA authorizing indefinite military detention without trial of even US citizens by the Pentagon. Obama claimed the authority to carry out killings of "targets," including US citizens. The FBI continued a policy of entrapment of dissident Muslim youth. Grand jury witch-hunts and FBI fishing expeditions were directed against anti-war and solidarity activists, Occupiers, and earth and animal rights proponents in Chicago, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and the Pacific northwest.

**Women's reproductive health measures have been criminalized**, and women subjected to intrusive examinations and restrictive requirements in seeking health care. Patriarchal attacks on women's rights and bodies have become a norm of legislative politics.

**War has spread from Afghanistan to Pakistan, from Iraq to Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia and maybe Iran.** Yet the anti-war movement has been lulled into quiet grumbling as the US exports war and war-making technology to oppressive client regimes around the world, perverting the Arab Spring into new colonial intervention.

Can we vote to change this? The electoral political system in the U.S. is totally dominated by corporate financing. Worse, it is inherently undemocratic because of Constitutional compromises dating back to slavery and the Founding Fathers' fear of "faction" (unruly working classes and indigenous people fighting for their rights). **The US electoral system is not only incapable of solving these problems, it is part of the problem.** Elections in the US are not designed to give "the people" an opportunity make policy; they are designed as a massive spectacle to alienate people from our own power to make change, and to obtain our grudging consent for the rulers' system and front-men. As on Death Row in UT, we're given the choice of lethal injection or the firing squad.

**All the social tinder that sparked Occupy is still around.** Alienation from and mistrust of the corporate electoral process and both candidates of the duopoly is evident in every public opinion poll. The plurality of people who bother to register are "independents." Only 5% of Republican voters, and 30% of Democratic voters, have "faith" that the government will do the right thing, whatever that is. So why does the resistance movement, at



least in terms of massive participation, seem to have gone to a simmer from a boil? There are two answers to that question, and one has the potential to solve the problem posed by the other.

First, like every social movement for transformation in US history, Occupy has suffered from internal weaknesses and external attacks that have held it back. More specifically, **as Occupy has been radicalized by its experiences, it has been marginalized and criminalized.** Simultaneously it has experienced in-fighting and splits over how to move forward, as well as abandonment by fair-weather friends who thought the path would be easier, or who were looking for only limited concessions and clean-up by the system. Some early organizers, unable or unwilling to engage in self-critical reflection or to challenge their own privilege and identification with the system of the 1%, have dropped away. Others, disappointed that Occupy refused to follow the trajectory of the Tea Party and align itself with the Democrats as the Tea Party adhered to the Republicans, have pulled out resources. They are looking for "activists" willing to hold their nose, put their blinders back on, and donate or volunteer for Obama and the Dems.

But second, **Occupy, which never fit into the norms of the media narrative, has also continued to grow and develop** in its own way, under the radar. In particular, Occupy is sinking roots in communities and building alliances based on direct action and participatory, horizontal organizing with other radical elements. In Los Angeles, at least 3 of the "Four Winds" from the May 1 General Strike are still active. In the north, Occupy San Fernando Valley has spearheaded home defense occupations against foreclosures in the mainly Mexicano Van Nuys area, particularly at "Fort Hernandez," a home threatened with foreclosure eviction by the LA Sheriffs acting for Bank of America. They are facing repression by the LAPD and other city agencies prior to a scheduled Sheriffs' raid.

The East Wind continues to work with the Brown Berets and other community groups in inner-city East L.A., focusing on the plague of police violence, among other issues. Occupy LA, which a year ago would not authorize a Committee Against Police Brutality, is now one of the main elements involved in building the October 22 Day of Action against police brutality. Occupy LA and Occupy OC have participated actively in opposing police murders and home foreclosures in Anaheim. The South Wind is working with the Black Riders Liberation Party, Occupy the Hood and Chuco's Justice Center on a community health fair, HIV education and prevention project and the development of a People's Clinic survival program.

Occupy L.A. continues its General Assemblies in Pershing Square, along with a weekly Freedom School. **OLA is planning a one-year commemoration and rededication from Friday, Sept. 28 through Monday, October 1.** The purpose is to bring people together, and then stay together to act on opposing the war in Afghanistan on October 6, opposing police brutality and political repression on October 22, and defending women and queers on Halloween in Hollywood on Oct. 31. Most of this is occurring out of sight of the corporate media, but all of this is part of remedying the isolation the media and the forces of repression are trying to impose on Occupy.

In this way, **Occupy, its off-shoots and allies may be able to solve the conundrum of how to be both an authentically revolutionary and a mass movement at the same time.**



# Attica: 41 years later

## September 9, 2012

by Mumia Abu-Jamal

Attica rebellion leaders, by forging multi-racial solidarity, set the tone for subsequent prisoner protests, including the recent mass hunger strikes, countering prison officials' exacerbation of racial tensions in an effort to divide and conquer.

The name Attica has entered the lexicon of American culture, driven in part by the cinema performance in "Dog Day Afternoon," when actor Al Pacino raised his fist and exclaimed, "Attica! Attica!"

Viewers immediately got the reference, for on Sept. 9, 1971, Attica – a reference to the state prison in upstate New York – was the biggest story in the country.

There, prisoners rebelled, took hostages and demanded to be treated as men. And the state, under orders of then-Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, unleashed a hail of bullets that killed dozens of men – prisoners and prison guards alike – and then lied about it.

Attica, politicians and prison reformers assured us, would be the harbinger of change. Never again, they said.

This September marks 41 years since that day of carnage and mass death – and things have changed – but not for the better.

According to a recent bulletin published by the New York state prison monitoring group, the Correctional Association, Attica remains a place of violence, fear, sexual and racist abuse and disrespect.

As in 1971, the staff is overwhelmingly white and rural, and prisoners are overwhelmingly Black, Latino and urban.

As in 1971, the joint is thick with tension.

As in 1971, the disrespect and maltreatment rolls down the hallways like dry tumbleweeds, waiting to ignite.

The Correctional Association has called for Attica to be shut down, as it remains a grim symbol of expensive, brutal failure.

If it does, it'll be 41 years too late.

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Read Mumia's latest book, "The Classroom and the Cell: Conversations on Black Life in America," co-authored by Columbia University professor Marc Lamont Hill, available from Third World Press, TWPBooks.com.

Keep updated at [www.freemumia.com](http://www.freemumia.com). For Mumia's commentaries, visit [www.prisonradio.org](http://www.prisonradio.org). For recent interviews with Mumia, visit [www.blockreportradio.com](http://www.blockreportradio.com). Encourage the media to publish and broadcast Mumia's commentaries and interviews.

Send our brotha some love and light:  
Mumia Abu-Jamal, AM 8335, SCI-Mahanoy,  
301 Morea Road, Frackville, PA 17932.



## 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.

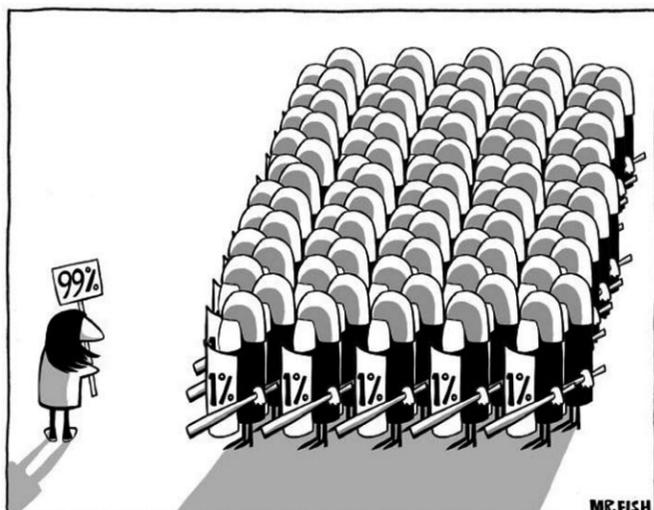
3) **NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS:** In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

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)**

**PO Box 1055\*CVLVER CITY CA 90232\*310-495-0299  
antiracistaction\_la@yahoo.com\*www.antiracist.org**



## TURNING THE TIDE: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education needs your help!

Postal and printing costs are up. Dozens of new prisoners ask to get free subs every month. Over 1500 copies of each edition are sent free to prisoners. Friends of ARA-LA/PART are in prison or facing prosecution for anti-racist, anti-fascist political activity. We had to switch to quarterly publication because of a lack of sufficient funds and staffing. We are asking prison subscribers to send us stamps.

**What can you do?**

We rely entirely on subscriptions and reader donations to publish. We've been coming out for 25 years, distributing thousands of copies 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.

**No checks to Turning the Tide OR Anti-Racist Action,  
please! Can't process them!**

**Send cash or US POSTAL MONEY ORDER to Boxholder!**

**Send to: Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055,  
Culver City CA 90232**

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

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

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

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

**ATTENTION PRISON SUBSCRIBERS!**

**Because of financial constraints, prisoners who want a  
subscription must send 4 stamps for a year.**

Too many papers are coming back because of address changes, releases or other similar problems. 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.**

# Agreement to End Hostilities

August 12, 2012

To whom it may concern and all California Prisoners:

Greetings from the entire PBSP-SHU Short Corridor Hunger Strike Representatives. We are hereby presenting this mutual agreement on behalf of all racial groups here in the PBSP-SHU Corridor. Wherein, we have arrived at a mutual agreement concerning the following points:

1. If we really want to bring about substantive meaningful changes to the CDCR system in a manner beneficial to all solid individuals, who have never been broken by CDCR's torture tactics intended to coerce one to become a state informant via debriefing, that now is the time for us to collectively seize this moment in time, and put an end to more than 20-30 years of hostilities between our racial groups.

2. Therefore, **beginning on October 10, 2012, all hostilities between our racial groups... in SHU, Ad-Seg, General Population, and County Jails, will officially cease.** This means that from this date on, all racial group hostilities need to be at an end... and if personal issues arise between individuals, people need to do all they can to exhaust all diplomatic means to settle such disputes; do not allow personal, individual issues to escalate into racial group issues!!

3. We also want to warn those in the General Population that IGI will continue to plant undercover Sensitive Needs Yard (SNY) debriefer "inmates" amongst the solid GP prisoners with orders from IGI to be informers, snitches, rats, and obstructionists, in order to attempt to disrupt and undermine our collective groups' mutual understanding on issues intended for our mutual causes [i.e., forcing CDCR to open up all GP main lines, and return to a rehabilitative-type system of meaningful programs/privileges, including lifer conjugal visits, etc. via peaceful protest activity/noncooperation e.g., hunger strike, no labor, etc. etc.].

People need to be aware and vigilant to such tactics, and refuse to allow such IGI inmate snitches to create chaos and reignite hostilities amongst our racial groups. We can no longer play into IGI, ISU, OCS, and SSU's old manipulative divide and conquer tactics!!!

In conclusion, we must all hold strong to our mutual agreement from this point on and focus our time, attention, and energy on mutual causes beneficial to all of us [i.e., prisoners], and our best interests. We can no longer allow CDCR to use us against each other for their benefit!!

Because the reality is that collectively, we are an empowered, mighty force, that can positively change this entire corrupt system into a system that actually benefits prisoners, and thereby, the public as a whole... and we simply cannot allow CDCR/CCPOA – Prison Guard's Union, IGI, ISU, OCS, and SSU, to continue to get away with their constant form of progressive oppression and warehousing of tens of thousands of prisoners, including the 14,000 (+) plus prisoners held in solitary confinement torture chambers [i.e. SHU/Ad-Seg Units], for decades!!! We send our love and respects to all those of like mind and heart... onward in struggle and solidarity...

Presented by the PBSP-SHU Short Corridor Collective:

Todd Ashker, C58191, D1-119  
Arturo Castellanos, C17275, D1-121  
Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa (Dewberry), C35671, D1-117  
Antonio Guillen, P81948, D2-106

And the Representatives Body:  
Danny Troxell, B76578, D1-120  
George Franco, D46556, D4-217  
Ronnie Yandell, V27927, D4-215  
Paul Redd, B72683, D2-117

James Baridi Williamson, D-34288, D4-107  
Alfred Sandoval, D61000, D4-214  
Louis Powell, B59864, D1-104  
Alex Yrigollen, H32421, D2-204  
Gabriel Huerta, C80766, D3-222  
Frank Clement, D07919, D3-116  
Raymond Chavo Perez, K12922, D1-219  
James Mario Perez, B48186, D3-124  
[NOTE: All names and the statement must be verbatim when used & posted on any website or media, or non-media, publications]



## November 17-24, 2012

# Return to Support Front Line Resistance Communities on Big Mountain & Black Mesa, AZ

by the Black Mesa Indigenous Support Collective

With people across the country organizing protests, direct actions, an encampment and mounting anti-coal campaigns as a part of the 2012 Climate Summer of Solidarity\* we wish to extend an invitation to return to Black Mesa. During this moment of peak visibility around climate chaos and extraction, we hope to honor and celebrate the nearly-40 year Indigenous-led resistance against cultural genocide, forced relocation, and massive coal mining on Black Mesa.

The genocide on Black Mesa has been recognized internationally. In the late 1980's the United Nations described the case of the forced relocation as one of the most flagrant violations of indigenous peoples' human rights in this hemisphere. As mentioned in the recent (2012) Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission report\*\*, PL 93-531 violates human rights, not only because it relocated families to new homesites on a contaminated uranium site, but also because the families remaining on their ancestral homelands, blockading the coal mining and continuing their traditional way of life, are living with daily harassment and intimidation, including livestock impoundment, and surveillance. Also according to the report, "Navajo people are empowered by [the resistance communities'] steadfastness, their sacrifice and their courage." As part of the larger support network, we've been inspired by these same qualities in the resistance communities.

The aim of this caravan is to honor the requests and words of the elders and their families--to prioritize building with returning supporters, while encouraging new people to come out throughout the year. With their guidance, we will carry their wishes and demands far beyond the annual caravan to link this struggle to our own decolonial practices and involvement in local social, environmental, and climate justice movements.

### IMPORTANT: How is this year's caravan different?

This year's caravan is ONLY open to returning on-land supporters. This means folks who have attended a caravan in the past, or who have done an on-land stay with a family or elder on Black Mesa. Based on the advice of Black Mesa/Big Mountain community members and advisors, we've decided to use the space of the caravan to build and organize with committed, returning supporters. Also by inviting folks who've already been to the land, BMIS is able to focus on building the network rather than orienting new supporters to the land. Three BMIS collective members are now living in Flagstaff, and have lots of capacity to orient new supporters throughout the rest of the year.

This year, there will be a two-day gathering of caravan participants and Black Mesa/Big Mountain community members at the end of the week, instead of one gathering at the beginning and one at the end.

This two-day gathering will be a time when participants get to hear from the Black Mesa/Big Mountain resistance communities, connect with each other, build political analysis, and share the work that we've been doing in our home communities throughout the year.

Since there is no opening gathering, you'll be in touch with the family you will stay with before the caravan begins. Please talk to them about specific requests that they have for their homesite.

### Protocol:

1. Email BMIS at [blackmesais@gmail.com](mailto:blackmesais@gmail.com) with Subject Line: Caravan Protocol 2012.

2. If you are in touch with a family already and want to stay with them during the caravan, email BMIS and let us know who you are going to and how many people are in your crew.

3. If you need to be put in touch with a family, say so in the email.

4. Once you are in touch with the family, ask them what their specific requests are.

5. If you want to be on roving wood crew instead of staying with a family, say so in the email. If you choose to be on wood crew, try to come prepared with chainsaws, axes, mauls, and trucks if possible. Wood crew will only be 10-15 people.

6. Bring \$10-\$20 to contribute to meals at the end of the week gathering. We will pay someone from the land to butcher and prepare food.

7. EVERYONE (even though you are returning) needs to provide emergency contact information, allergy/illness information and any other pertinent information to their regional coordinator if you have one. The regional coordinator will compile this information for their crew and pass email it to BMIS. If you do not have a regional coordinator, contact BMIS with this information via email.

### ALL OF THIS INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE SUBMITTED TO BMIS BY OCTOBER 31st, 2012!

Please help us make this a smoothly-organized event by cooperating with the protocols and deadline.

Again, this year's fall caravan is only open to returning supporters. Prior to visiting Black Mesa, please review the Cultural Sensitivity & Preparedness Guidebook: <http://blackmesais.org/tag/cultural-sensitivity/>

### If you aren't a returning supporter and therefore aren't coming on the caravan but still want to be involved:

Stay with a family any time of the year or come with a small crew you organize with guidance from BMIS: Families living in resistance to coal mining and relocation laws are requesting self-sufficient guests who are willing to give three or more weeks of their time, especially in the winter. Contact BMIS in advance so that we can make arrangements prior to your stay, to answer any questions that you may have, and so we can help put you in touch with a family.

It is of the utmost importance that each guest understands and respects the ways of the communities that we will be visiting. Prior to visiting Black Mesa, all guests must read and sign the Cultural Sensitivity & Preparedness Guide:

<http://blackmesais.org/tag/cultural-sensitivity/>

Everyone can:

Host or attend regional organizational meetings in your area: We strongly urge participants to attend or organize regional meetings. There you'll engage in political education work and help regional coordinators plan logistics, fundraisers, and collect donated food and supplies ahead of time.

Raise Supplies: Trucks, chainsaws, & supplies are integral to the success of the caravan. The more trucks we have, the more wood, water, and other heavy loads we can transport. Axes, mauls, axe handles, shovels, tools of all kinds, organic food, warm blankets, and did we mention trucks? -- either to donate to families or to use for the week of the caravan--are greatly needed on the land to make this caravan work!

...continued on p. 4

In response to repeated requests from our prisoner subscribers, *Turning the Tide* is printing in this issue extensive resource lists for prisoners, in the belief that people in “minimum security” out here outside the walls need to step up our involvement in and support of such projects, given the centrality of the issue of mass incarceration and political imprisonment to an understanding of the true nature of this society and to the process of building effective resistance and revolutionary transformation. *ARA-LA/PART* itself is a small, unfunded project focused on production and distribution of *Turning the Tide*, working within coalition efforts and grassroots movements such as the Jericho Amnesty Movement, the Occupy movement, Anti-Racist Action network and Pacifica to raise consciousness, but we are not in position to be a service provider to individual prisoners. We urge our readers with the capacity to do so, to participate in and support the projects listed here. Next issue will feature the Prison Library Project and other book providers.--*Editor*

# PRISONER RESOURCES

**Prison Activist Resource Center (PARC)**  
PO Box 70447  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510.893.4648  
[info@prisonactivist.org](mailto:info@prisonactivist.org)

PARC is a prison abolitionist group based on Oakland, California committed to exposing and challenging the institutionalized racism, sexism, ableism, heterosexism, and classism of the Prison Industrial Complex.

## Our Projects: Prisoner's Voices

With the thousands of letters received from prisoners we are given a window into the lives and experiences of people inside. The letters come in many forms: personal accounts, essays, poetry, etc. We have picked through and chosen the most powerful writings and retyped them unedited so that the public is aware of the terrible abuses and the amazing examples of survival and strength that these prisoners show.

## Prisoner Support Directory

PARC corresponds with and mails this resource packet to prisoners, their friends and family members. We are often the first point of contact for people to connect with prisoners' rights organizations, community organizations, prison literature and arts projects, family and visiting resources, health care and legal resources, parole and pre-release resources, and the prison abolition movement.

If you are an organization that will use this directory to support prisoners who contact you, please send us a 65 cent stamp with your request and we will send you an original copy.

## Past Projects: Toxic Sweatshops

“Toxic Sweatshops: How UNICOR Prison Recycling Harms Workers, Communities, the Environment, and the Recycling Industry” was released in October 2006. It is an important look into the world of the Prison Industrial Complex and the modern slavery that makes it a multi-million dollar a year business.

## Prison Issues Curriculum

PARC's Prison Issues Curriculum is designed to provide information, stimulate discussion and inspire community action for High School classes. This four part series covers issues such as: the Criminalization of Youth, the Death Penalty, Who's in Prison, and Prison Profits. While we are not actively updating the curriculum right now, as we are focusing on other projects, we do still send out the curriculum upon request. To request a copy, contact PARC with your address and request.

## Political Prisoners

PARC works with prisoners of all types across the country, but wants to call special attention to high profile

prisoners we believe are being kept in prison for political reasons.

## Sample resources from the PARC Directory of Prisoner Resources:

### ABC South Chicago Zine Distro

1321 N. Milwaukee AVE PMB 460  
Chicago, IL 60622  
[midwestbooks@yahoo.com](mailto:midwestbooks@yahoo.com)  
A Rayson/South Chicago ABC Zine Distro,  
PO Box 721, Homewood IL, 60430-8721

Offers a wide variety of political zines at low cost to prisoners. Specializes in helping get the truth out of the gulags, in zine form. Supports prisoner initiatives such as prisoner labor unions. Offers zines for women prisoners. Sorry, available in English only.

### Allied Resistance

P.O. Box 442438 c/o Kansas Mutual Aid  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
[kansasmutualaid@hotmail.com](mailto:kansasmutualaid@hotmail.com)  
Monthly publication of prisoner revolutionaries dedicated to build to build a movement for a just and sustainable future. \$1 or 4 stamp donations suggested. Ask for info about prisoner labor union.

### American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) National Prison Project

915 15th St. NW 7th Floor  
Washington DC, DC 20005  
(202) 393-4930  
<http://www.aclu.org/prisoners-rights>  
The ACLU National Prison Project is dedicated to ensuring that our nation's prisons, jails, and other places of detention comply with the Constitution, domestic law, and international human rights principles, and to ending the policies that have given the United States the highest incarceration rate in the world. We promote a fair and effective criminal justice system in which incarceration is used only as a last resort, and its purpose is to prepare prisoners for release and a productive, law-abiding life at the earliest possible time. Write for a list of publications and the contact info for the ACLU office in your state.

### Barrios Unidos

1817 Soquel Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
(831) 457-8208  
<http://www.barriosunidos.net/>  
Post-release services. Performs Pow-wow/ Cinco De Mayo/Juneteenth ceremonies at Tracy and info packet related to cultural traditions.

### California Coalition for Women Prisoners

1540 Market St. #6  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 255-7036 x314

<http://www.womenprisoners.org/> [info@womenprisoners.org](mailto:info@womenprisoners.org)  
Runs action center and produces newsletter “The Fire Inside”. CCWP is a grassroots social justice organization, with members inside and outside prison, that challenges the institutional violence imposed on women, transgender people, and communities of color by the prison industrial complex (PIC). We see the struggle for racial and gender justice as central to dismantling the PIC and we prioritize the leadership of the people, families, and communities most impacted in building this movement.

CCWP es una organización que lucha para el cambio de las condiciones de violencia impuestas en las mujeres, las personas transexuales y las comunidades de color por las prisiones y el sistema criminal de justicia. Estamos construyendo un movimiento con mujeres en prisión, familiares de las prisioneras y la comunidad amplia a través de la organización, el desarrollo del liderazgo y la educación política.

## OTHER PRISON RESOURCES:

### Black Riders Liberation Party

PO Box 8297,  
Los Angeles CA 90008  
(323) 289-4457  
[blackriderslp@yahoo.com](mailto:blackriderslp@yahoo.com)  
The BRLP is a revolutionary African Inter-Communist organization, the new generation Black Panther Party for self-defense, which is building a nation-wide prison chapter and also participates in the Jericho Amnesty Movement Los Angeles chapter.

### Chicano-Mexicano Prison Project

c/o Union del Barrio  
P.O. Box 13036  
San Diego, CA 92170  
[info@uniondelbarrio.org](mailto:info@uniondelbarrio.org)  
619-398-6648  
The CMPP holds a conference on Raza prisoners and colonialism. Their goal is to put an end to the social-economic system known as “capitalism-colonialism”, which gave birth to and maintains the concentration camps, and profits from the incarceration hundreds of thousands of people.

### White Panther Organization

PO Box 4362  
Allentown PA 18105-4362  
The WPO is prison-based, class-conscious, and operates under the leadership of the New Afrikan Black Panther Party-Prison Chapter. They put out an occasional journal featuring historical and analytical articles.

## Return to Big Mountain & Black Mesa, AZ

...continued from p. 3

BMIS has a 501-C3 tax-deductible number so if you need that contact us.

**Challenge Colonialism:** One of BMIS's main organizing goals is to highlight anti-colonial education within all the regional meetings leading up to the caravan. In addition to the Cultural Sensitivity Guide, we encourage you to bring articles, films, and other resources to your regional meetings and host discussions that further our collective understanding for transforming colonialism, white supremacy, genocide, and all intersections of oppression.

For more, please check out the BMIS collective's Points Of Unity. Feel free to share with us any resources that you like so that we can build upon this list and strengthen our growing support network.

### The Black Mesa Indigenous Support Collective: Hallie, Liza, Berkley, Derek, & Tree

Black Mesa Indigenous Support (BMIS) is a grassroots, all-volunteer collective committed to supporting the indigenous peoples of Black Mesa in their resistance to massive coal mining operations and to the forced relocation policies of the US government.

We see ourselves as a part of a people powered uprising for a healthy planet liberated from fossil fuel extraction, exploitative economies, racism, and oppression for our generation and generations to come. BMIS stands with the elders of Black Mesa in their declaration that “Coal is the Mother Earth's liver” and joins them in action to ensure that coal remains in the ground.

Check out some of the Climate Summer of Solidarity Actions here:  
<http://summerofsolidarity.tumblr.com/>

\*\*Read the NNHRC Report on Relocation here:  
[http://www.nnhrc.navajo-nsn.gov/pressReleases/TheImpactofthe\\_Navajo-Hopi\\_SettlementActof1974--P.L.93-531.pdf](http://www.nnhrc.navajo-nsn.gov/pressReleases/TheImpactofthe_Navajo-Hopi_SettlementActof1974--P.L.93-531.pdf)

Black Mesa Water Coalition

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**Black Mesa Indigenous Support**  
P.O. Box 23501  
Flagstaff, AZ 86002



Estimates of the number of “innocent” people in prison vary widely, but DNA testing has exonerated numerous people accused of capital crimes, and the evidence of widespread prosecutorial misconduct, institutional racism within the criminal justice system as chronicled by Michelle Wallace in “The New Jim Crow,” and abusive policing is incontrovertible. Many prisoners write to *Turning the Tide* seeking assistance with legal claims and appeals that we cannot provide. We are printing this resource list, obtained primarily from the Innocence Project in the hopes it may help prisoners reverse individual injustices, as well as build the larger social movement to abolish prisons entirely.--*Editor*

# Resources to Assist on Claims of Factual Innocence

## To submit a case to the Innocence Project

The Innocence Project is not equipped to handle case applications or inquiries by email or over the phone. All case submissions and follow-up correspondence will be handled by mail or overnight delivery services only.

If you are seeking legal assistance, please read the following guidelines for submitting your case.

All cases for consideration should be mailed (to the address above) with a brief factual summary of the case, including the specific charges and convictions and a list of the evidence used against the defendant. No other documents should be submitted for initial review. The Innocence Project is not equipped to handle telephone or electronic (email) applications.

The Innocence Project only accepts cases on post-conviction appeal in which DNA testing can prove innocence. If the case does not involve biological evidence or DNA, check the Other Innocence Organizations listed below to see if there is a program in your area that provides broader legal and investigative assistance.

**Defendants in California and Wisconsin:** We are NOT currently accepting new cases from California or Wisconsin. If you are looking for assistance in Wisconsin, please contact the Wisconsin Innocence Project.

**California:** If the conviction/crime occurred in **southern California**, please contact the California Innocence Project at <http://www.californiainnocenceproject.org/>, or write 225 Cedar Street, San Diego, CA 92101. (619) 525-1485. The counties covered by the California Innocence Project are: Kern, Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura. California Western School of Law is home to the California Innocence Project. Students at California Western work to free wrongfully convicted inmates by reviewing more than 1000 claims of innocence each year and focusing on cases where there is evidence of actual innocence. Innocence Project attorneys and students then investigate cases by securing expert witnesses and advocating for their clients during evidentiary hearings and trials. All approved expenditures and distributions from this fund will be made until the entirety of funds, including investment gains or losses, have been distributed.

**If the conviction/crime occurred in any other Calif. county**, please contact the Northern California Innocence Project at <http://law.scu.edu/ncip/index.cfm>, Northern California Innocence Project, Santa Clara University School of Law, 900 Lafayette Street, Suite 105, Santa Clara, CA 95050, Phone: (408) 554-4790, Fax: (408) 554-5440, E-mail: [ncip@scu.edu](mailto:ncip@scu.edu)

NOTE: The Innocence Project is not affiliated with an organization operating under the name “American Innocence Project” and the American Innocence Project does not have authorization to solicit funds under the Innocence Project name. If you have been contacted this group or a similar organization, please contact us at:

**[info@innocenceproject.org](mailto:info@innocenceproject.org)**



Graphic by MacPhee for Prison Activist Resource Center

## ALASKA

Alaska Innocence Project  
P.O. Box 201656  
Anchorage, AK 99520-1656  
Phone: 907-279-0454

## ARIZONA

Justice Project, Inc.  
Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law,  
Arizona State University  
PO BOX 877906  
Tempe, AZ 85287-7906  
Phone: 480-727-0009  
Fax: 480-727-9157

Arizona Innocence Project  
Department of Criminal Justice  
Northern Arizona University  
P.O. Box 15005  
Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5005  
Phone: 928-523-9979

## ARKANSAS

Innocence Project Arkansas  
School of Law Legal Clinic  
Robert A. Leflar Law Center  
1 University of Arkansas  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
479-575-3056

## CALIFORNIA

California Innocence Project  
California Western School of Law  
225 Cedar Street  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Phone: 619-525-1485

Northern California Innocence Project at  
Santa Clara University  
500 El Camino Real  
Santa Clara, CA 95053-0422  
Phone: 408-554-1945

University of California - Irvine  
(not a network member)  
Department of Criminology, Law &  
Society  
University of California  
Irvine, CA 92697-7080

## COLORADO

Colorado Innocence Project  
404 UCB  
Boulder, Colorado 80309-0404

## CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Innocence Project  
c/o McCarter & English  
Cityplace I  
185 Asylum Street, 36th Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103  
Phone: 860-275-6140

New England Innocence Project  
Exchange Place  
53 State Street  
Boston, MA 02109  
Phone: 617-305-6505

## DELAWARE

Office of the Public Defender  
Carvel State Building  
820 French Street, 3rd Floor  
Wilmington, DE 19801

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project  
4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
Phone: 202-895-4519

## FLORIDA

Innocence Project of Florida  
1100 E. Park Ave.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
Phone: 850-561-6767

Miami Law Innocence Clinic  
3000 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 100  
Miami, FL 33137  
Phone: 305-284-8115

Innocence Denied journal  
(not a network member)  
PO Box 731464  
Ormond Beach FL 32173-1464

## GEORGIA

Georgia Innocence Project  
2645 North Decatur Road  
Decatur, GA 30033  
Phone: 404-373-4433

## HAWAII

Hawai'i Innocence Project  
2515 Dole Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone: 808-956-6547

## IDAHO

Idaho Innocence Project  
Mail Stop 1515  
Boise State University  
1910 University Drive  
Boise, ID 83725-1515  
Phone: 208-426-4207

## ILLINOIS

Center on Wrongful Convictions \*\*  
Northwestern University School of Law  
357 East Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Phone: 312-502-3291

Medill Innocence Project  
Northwestern University  
1845 N. Sheridan Ave.  
Evanston, IL 60208  
Phone: 847-491-5840

Illinois Innocence Project  
Institute for Legal and Policy Studies  
at the UI at Springfield  
One University Plaza  
MS Public Affairs Center 451  
Springfield, IL 62703-5407  
Phone: 217-206-6569

Life After Innocence  
Loyola University School of Law  
25 East Pearson Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Phone: 312-915-8609

## INDIANA

Indiana University School of Law -  
Indianapolis  
Clinic, Wrongful Convictions Component  
735 West New York Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Phone: 317-274-5551

## IOWA

Innocence Project of Iowa  
P.O. Box 93  
Estherville, Iowa 51335

Midwest Innocence Project  
6320 Brookside Plaza #1500  
Kansas City, MO 64113  
Phone: 816-221-2166

## KANSAS

Midwest Innocence Project  
6320 Brookside Plaza #1500  
Kansas City, MO 64113  
Phone: 816-221-2166

## KENTUCKY

Kentucky Innocence Project  
100 Fair Oaks Lane  
Ste. 301  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
Phone: 502-564-3948

## LOUISIANA

Innocence Project New Orleans  
3301 Chartres Street  
New Orleans, LA 70117  
Phone: 504-943-1902

Resurrection After Exoneration  
3301 Chartres Street  
New Orleans, LA 70117  
Phone: 504-943-1902

## MAINE

New England Innocence Project  
Exchange Place  
53 State Street  
Boston, MA 02109  
Phone: 617-305-6505

## MARYLAND

Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project  
4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
Phone: 202-274-4199

University of Baltimore Innocence  
Project Clinic  
40 West Chase Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
Phone: 410-837-6543

## MASSACHUSETTS

New England Innocence Project  
Goodwin Procter LLP  
Exchange Place  
53 State Street  
Boston, MA 02109  
Phone: 617-305-6505

Committee for Public Counsel Services  
Innocence Program  
44 Bromfield Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Justice Brandeis Innocence Project  
Schuster Institute for Investigative  
Journalism

Brandeis University  
415 South Street, MS 043  
Waltham, MA 02454  
Phone: 781-736-4953

## MICHIGAN

Thomas M. Cooley Innocence Project  
300 S. Capitol Ave. P.O. Box 13038  
Lansing, MI 48901  
Phone: 517-371-5140

Michigan Innocence Clinic  
1029 Legal Research Building  
625 State Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109  
Phone: 734-763-9353

## MINNESOTA

Innocence Project of Minnesota  
Hamline University School of Law  
1536 Hewitt Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
Phone: 651-523-3152

## MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Innocence Project  
University of Mississippi School of Law  
P.O. Box 1848  
University, MS 38677  
Phone: 662-915-5206

## MISSOURI

Midwest Innocence Project  
6320 Brookside Plaza #1500  
Kansas City, MO 64113  
Phone: 816-221-2166

## MONTANA

Montana Innocence Project  
P.O. Box 7607  
Missoula, MT 59807  
Phone: 406-243-6698

## NEBRASKA

Nebraska Innocence Project  
P.O. Box 24183  
Omaha, NE 68124-0183  
Phone: 402-280-3062

## NEVADA

Rocky Mountain Innocence Center  
358 South 700 East  
Salt Lake City, UT 84102  
Phone: 801-355-1888

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

New England Innocence Project  
Exchange Place  
53 State Street  
Boston, MA 02109  
Phone: 617-305-6505

## NEW JERSEY

Centurion Ministries  
(Not a network member)  
221 Witherspoon Street  
Princeton, NJ 08542

## NEW MEXICO

Innocence and Justice Project  
University of New Mexico School of Law  
1117 Stanford NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87131  
Phone: 505-277-2671

## NEW YORK

Innocence Project at Benjamin N. Cardozo  
Law School - Yeshiva U.  
40 Worth St., Suite 701  
New York, NY 10013  
Phone: 212-364-5340

Second Look Program  
(Not a network member)  
Brooklyn Law School  
250 Joralemon Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Pace Post-Conviction Project  
Barbara C. Salkin Criminal Justice Clinic  
78 North Broadway, Room G210  
White Plains, NY 10603  
Phone: 914-422-4230

Reinvestigation Project  
Office of the Appellate Defender  
11 Park Place, Suite 1601  
New York, NY 10007  
Phone: 212-402-4100

The Exoneration Initiative  
350 Broadway, Suite 1207  
New York, NY 10013  
Phone: 212-965-9335

# Anti-Racist Action Network 18th Annual Conference

by Arch City ARA (Columbus OH)

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

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

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

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



## Why doesn't ARA rely on the cops or the courts?

Most anti-racist groups focus all their efforts on creating new laws or getting the police to respond to racism. But the cops uphold white supremacy and the status quo; they attack us and everyone that resists oppression. This means that police are not likely to get involved with fighting racist and fascists until they have hurt or killed someone. We think that that's too late and that any anti-racist group that doesn't organize an effective opposition to racist and fascists before they hurt people is not doing their job.

Another problem with anti-racist groups that work closely with the police is that they are afraid to criticize the police when they pull racist, sexist, or homophobic shit. By maintaining a distance from the legal system, ARA is in a better position to call the cops and the courts on racist practices and behaviors.

## I saw some ARA people wearing masks at an action. What's up with that?

You probably also noticed bigots with cameras at that same action. Racists like to take pictures of anti-racists so that they'll be able to identify them and attack them later on. To protect our safety, we sometimes choose to wear masks so that we don't have to worry about racists attacking us, or people close to us, after or outside of an action.

## What is fascism?

ARA recognizes a number of characteristics of fascist movements. Fascism is an ultra-nationalist ideology that mobilizes around and glorifies a national or perceived racial identity, valuing this identity above all other interests (for example gender or class). Fascism is marked by its hostility towards reason and human solidarity, by its dehumanization and scapegoating of marginalized or oppressed groups, by its use of violence or threats of violence to impose its views on others, and by its rejection of supposedly "effeminate" or "soft" values in favor of "manliness." Anti-Semitism and racism are primary facets of National Socialism and most other varieties of fascism. Fascism aims at a militarized society, and organizes along military or quasi-military lines, usually with an authoritarian structure revolving around a single, charismatic leader. Fascist groups may have the facade of an efficient and dynamic organization, but in reality, power structures are arbitrary and ruthless. Fascists use anti-elitist rhetoric to appeal to the "common man," coupled with internal elitism and willingness to accept support from existing elites. Fascism glorifies a mythologized past as justification for its present ideological stances, and as a basis for future organization of society.

Check us out at [www.antiracistaction.org](http://www.antiracistaction.org)

# Resources to Assist on Claims of Factual Innocence

...continued from p. 5

## NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Center on Actual Innocence  
PO Box 52446  
Shannon Plaza Station  
Durham, NC 27717  
Phone: 919-489-3268

The Duke Center for Criminal Justice and Professional Responsibility

Duke University School of Law  
PO Box 90360  
Durham, NC 27708  
Phone: 919-613-7241

Wake Forest University Law School and Innocence and Justice Clinic

1834 Wake Forest Road  
Winston-Salem, NC 27109  
Phone: 336-758-6111

## NORTH DAKOTA

Innocence Project of Minnesota  
(Only DNA cases in North Dakota)  
Hamline University School of Law  
1536 Hewitt Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
Phone: 651-523-3152

## OHIO

Ohio Innocence Project  
University of Cincinnati College of Law  
P.O. Box 210040  
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0020  
Phone: 513-556-0752

Office of the Ohio Public Defender,  
Wrongful Conviction Project  
250 East Broad Street  
Suite 1400  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: 614-466-5394

## OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Indigent Defense System -  
DNA Forensic Testing Program  
(Not a network member)  
P.O. Box 926  
Norman, OK 73070

Oklahoma Innocence Project  
OCU School of Law  
2501 North Blackwelder  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106  
Phone: 405-208-6161

## PENNSYLVANIA

Duquesne Law Post-Conviction DNA Project  
(Not a network member)  
600 Forbes Avenue, 632 Fisher Hall  
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

Pennsylvania Innocence Project  
Temple University Beasley School of Law  
1719 North Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19122  
Phone: 215-204-4255

## RHODE ISLAND

New England Innocence Project  
Exchange Place  
53 State Street  
Boston, MA 02109  
Phone: 617-305-6505

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Palmetto Innocence Project  
P.O. Box 11623  
Columbia, SC 29211

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Innocence Project of South Dakota  
USD School of Law  
414 East Clark Street  
Vermillion, SD 57069  
Phone: 605-677-5361

Innocence Project of Minnesota  
(Only DNA cases in South Dakota)  
Hamline University School of Law  
1536 Hewitt Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
Phone: 651-523-3152

## TEXAS

Texas Center for Actual Innocence  
University of Texas School of Law  
727 East Dean Keeton Street  
Austin, TX 78705

Innocence Project of Texas  
1511 Texas Avenue  
Lubbock, TX 79401  
Phone: 806-744-6525

Wesleyan Innocence Project  
Texas Wesleyan University School of Law  
1515 Commerce St.  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Thurgood Marshall School of Law Innocence Project  
3100 Cleburne Street  
Houston, TX 77004  
Phone: 713-313-1139

## UTAH

Rocky Mountain Innocence Center  
358 South 700 East, B235  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103  
Phone: 801-355-1888

## VERMONT

New England Innocence Project  
Exchange Place  
53 State Street  
Boston, MA 02109  
Phone: 617-305-6505

## VIRGINIA

Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project  
4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
Phone: 202-274-4199

Innocence Project at UVA School of Law  
580 Massie Road  
Charlottesville, VA 22901  
Phone: 434-924-7315

## WASHINGTON

Innocence Project Northwest Clinic  
University of Washington School of Law  
William H. Gates Hall, Suite 265  
P.O. Box 85110  
Seattle, WA 98145-1110  
Phone: 206-543-5780

## WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Innocence Project  
University of Wisconsin Law School  
Remington Center  
Madison, WI 53706  
Phone: 608-265-1160

## WYOMING

Rocky Mountain Innocence Center  
358 South 700 East, B235  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103 Phone: 801-355-1888

# The Struggle for KPFK and Pacifica Radio Climbing Mt. Wilson

by Leslie Radford

“KPFK 90.7 FM, radio powered by the people, is coming to you from studios in North Hollywood broadcasting at 112,000 watts from atop Mt. Wilson.” That was the proud KPFK station ID just a few years ago. Today the studios, formerly bustling with hundreds of volunteer producers and programmers airing dozens of diverse programs, almost echo in their emptiness, and the transmitter requires an FCC waiver to keep broadcasting at reduced power.

But imagine...a radio station that inspires you to support it by volunteering or donating, and that everyone you know supports, refers to and turns to for breaking news, thoughtful analysis and cutting-edge cultural programming.

...a radio station that radicals and progressives in Southern California listen to and talk about, because it broadcasts the voices of Southern California radicals and progressives and of the communities it serves.

...a radio station that features all the diverse voices of Southern California, incarcerated, queer, Black, poor, straight, Brown, those fixing the system, needing food or health care, the unhoused, Indigenous, people providing housing or food or healthcare, those upsetting the system, who fight for liberation, who unite for justice.

That KPFK is the vision of Grassroots Community Radio Collective, running candidates for Local Station Board.

KPFK was famous for its cutting edge programming through most of its first half-century, opposing war in Southeast Asia, Central America and the Middle East and repression in the US from COINTELPRO to the USA PATRIOT Act. But in its second half-century it has succumbed to mainstream pressures, even as the impact of war, poverty, ecological collapse, inequality, and injustice intensify on the populations it serves, and the need for critical thought increases. A program grid once a marquee for challenging, informative local shows is filling up with shows from outside producers, or produced in-house but stripped of local color so they can be syndicated across the Pacifica network. Programs that stimulate and inspire audiences outside KPFK’s reliance on white and middle-class donations are under attack. Programming that hews to a narrow electoral political tendency is waiting in the wings to replace them. Shows produced by collectives now have single hosts on the air. The once-frenetic news department with two directors and a dozen or more stringers has been reduced to one or two stories about SoCal aired on the “Pacifica Evening News” produced in Berkeley. A network that styles itself progressive meets regularly at non-union hotels and until pressed by members of GCRC and our allies at other stations, had hired a notorious union-busting law firm as consultants and outside counsel.

This is the result of a plan put in place just over three years ago by an interim Executive Director of Pacifica to make over KPFK and its four sister stations in the network. Four of five Pacifica general managers were replaced. Except for one, all the Black and Brown station management members resigned or were purged. Now the Executive

Director has again been replaced by an interim ED from the same dominant faction. We cannot afford to wait for the other shoe to drop.

High atop Mt. Wilson, operating at half of its power, a formerly badass radio transmitter awaits its champions. KPFK is governed democratically, with representatives of listeners and staff elected by station members. This year’s election campaign is underway, and a slate of candidates united under the banner of the Grassroots Community Radio Collective are running to push to the top of the mountain and plant Pacifica’s radical flag firmly in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For most of the past two years, the local Board has been split down the middle. This election provides a chance for listeners to speak out clearly in favor of a grassroots community orientation, greater accountability and transparency, more inter-activity with listeners on the air and over the station’s social media platforms, including its under-utilized website, and programming pertinent to the pressing survival issues facing us all, particularly communities of color and working people.

The candidates of GCRC are determined to restore KPFK to its mission of peace, justice, and news on all matters vitally affecting the community. Theirs is a re-visioning of the station, from its current course of syndicated, cookie-cutter programming and to culturally diverse community shows. GCRC candidates pledge to help build a KPFK not just listener-sponsored, but listener-owned; not a disembodied voice intoning enlightenment, but the voices of people learning, rising up, creating and sharing a new and better way of living.

Here’s our plan. GCRC candidates and members across the Los Angeles basin and into Orange, Ventura, Riverside, and San Diego counties, will go listen to KPFK listeners, ask for votes, and recruit listeners to join the effort. KPFK’s slide to irrelevance and eventual insolvency can only be turned around with the committed pushback of KPFK listeners.

If GCRC can secure a solid majority on the KPFK Local Station Board and strong representation on the Pacifica National Board, then the rebuilding will begin. First to be restructured is the failed fundraising model that relies on ever-longer fund drives, ‘selling’ premiums more akin to swag bags than to education to an ever-smaller audience. That failed funding model is driving away even devoted listeners and the network has plans for more staff cuts.

GCRC candidates pledge to reverse ever-longer on-air fund drives by diversifying income streams. Instead of the same re-repeated interview with the same marketer, GCRC board members will work with station management to promote community events, local performance and event sponsorships, and grassroots appeals. When they do, they will be liberating radio time from fund drive pitching for KPFK’s message; no more enduring incessant infomercials. Enthusiastic program hosts will use fund drives to break out of their show’s normal format to talk with listeners about the station and its future. Today’s promises of narcissistic “gifts” with little connection to the station’s mission will be gone. No more claims to defy aging with cold cream,

or forty hours of DVDs to explain why it’s the listener’s fault she’s not wealthy. Donors will receive premiums culled from community events, exciting performance and insightful books.

Step 2 is to return KPFK to self-sufficiency, as the Pacifica Mission calls for. That requires local control of programming. Under the current makeover model, programs are purchased from franchisers including even NPR, and or produced in-house to be redistributed nationwide. Instead, KPFK will cultivate technology that allows local producers and reporters to record and broadcast live from within our communities, at bookstores and cafes, from sites of protest, adding real-time analysis to breaking stories, and interviewing people as events occur.

Imagine hearing speeches at an immigrants’ rights march on your drive to work, or catching an anti-war protest you couldn’t attend while you eat lunch. Rather than bringing authors into the studio, why not host and broadcast discussions at book signings?

Step 3 is inclusion. The failed makeover model has narrowed KPFK’s focus to chiefly middle-class, chiefly white, and chiefly older people. There’s been sustained resistance to that focus, so some diverse programming remains, but producers of “alternative” programming, nearly all volunteers, work under the sword of cancellation. KPFK should be an incubator for new voices, for the study of antagonisms as the Pacifica Mission calls for. Longtime, dominant-culture programmers have to concede turf to young, non-traditional, and so-called “minority” voices.

What if you turned on the radio and heard a semi-monthly program on immigration produced and hosted by Dreamers, the youth without papers and without fear, whose parents could be disappeared tomorrow? Ever wonder what an anarchist organizing meeting would sound like? What if you could tune in and hear one? Have you heard music by The Coup or Anti-Flag, socially conscious rapper on KPFK, and why not? The South Central Farmers forced the mayor to address the greening of Los Angeles. What could they contribute to a discussion on KPFK of Los Angeles ecology, food production and distribution, permaculture and organic farming?

Listeners and members can volunteer at KPFK. Call the station and ask to learn to make radio, or answer the phones, or table at events. If you’re a member, when your KPFK ballot arrives give the GCRC your highest votes. Those candidates are **Armida Corral** of the ADA, **Jamie Garcia** of Occupy LA Wellness, **Aryana Gladney** of the Black Riders Liberation Party, Dr. **Sonia Parada**, **Thomas Halle** who worked on the Community Advisory Board, **John Kenney** of Occupy San Diego, **Jack Neff** who works on the Kuruvungna Springs indigenous land project, **George Olivo** of Occupy Orange County, **Reza Pour** of the Federation of Progressive Iranians, and **Lawrence Reyes** of the Puerto Rican Alliance and the Latino Caucus of SEIU 721. Aryana and Lawrence are current LSB members and Reza is a former member from Grassroots. They bring a combination of Pacifica experience, fresh perspective and accountability to the communities that KPFK sorely needs. (GCRC is also backing staff candidates Rodrigo Argueta and Orlando Rocha.) There’s a transmitter on Mt. Wilson, and it’s working at half capacity. There’s a half-empty radio station in North Hollywood. Imagine what they could be, imagine what the Grassroots Community Radio Coalition sees. Join with GCRC, and be the champions who climb Mt. Wilson. There’s a transmitter to power up, and a station to rebuild. [www.gcrc-socal.org](http://www.gcrc-socal.org) 323-540-GCRC (4272).

*Leslie Radford is a former member of the KPFK LSB and the Pacifica National Board.*

## A Virtual Pilgrimage Regarding Racism

By Louie Crew

I used Google Earth (free) to make a virtual pilgrimage to physical places in my life where I witnessed racism or interacted significantly across color lines. Google Earth allows one to traverse streets in any direction.

I revisited Woolworth’s, which during my childhood used brown porcelain and white porcelain to indicate who was to drink from a water fountain.

I visited the bus station in my home town, where Freedom Riders were assaulted, and the site just out of town where their bus was burned.

I revisited Foster Auditorium at the University of Alabama, where George Wallace ‘stood in the school house door’ before President Kennedy nationalized the Alabama Guard

I revisited the homes of Black people who worked for my family, including the home of Eula Jackson, who spent the most time with me as a child. Years later, I showed her Ernest’s picture and said: “This is the man I married.” She exclaimed, “Lord o’ mercy, I brought you up right!”

I revisited our first home together at 701 Orange Street, in Fort Valley, GA where Ernest and I carried

each other (one at a time) across the threshold on February 2, 1974. A bishop said we caused the local tornado.

I visited the home of Fleming Edwards, Jr., who was in a secret intelligence unit during the Korean war but could not even make a go of it repairing TVs through Dad’s hardware store because “white” people would not let a Black man come into their homes during the day.

I revisited Woods Hall, where I taught Robert Freeman freshman English, one of the early students to integrate the University of Alabama. Later he pushed cars all one summer to become one of Bear Bryant’s first Black players.

I revisited the route of the ice-wagon through my neighborhood; the driver had befriended me when I was on a Boy Scout hike for a week in the Talladega National Forest, ca. 1948.

I revisited the house of Julia Green, who drank a glass full of DDT in our breakfast room when her boyfriend was jailed, and then handed me her suicide note to give to my parents. She survived, but lost her job.

I revisited McCallie School, where Pat Robertson 10 years before me had the same bible teacher, Dr. J. P. McCallie. We were segregated from half of the community.

I revisited St. Andrew’s School in Middletown, Delaware, where I brought my first TV out from hiding to watch non-stop several days of coverage of the assassination of JFK. We had no black students or colleagues.

I revisited my home in Tuscaloosa where I first learned of Dr. King’s assassination....

I recommend this discipline to other people of European descent. Make a list of the Black people who most directly connected to you in your life, and revisit those places as prompts for meditation.

Louie Crew is an emeritus professor at Rutgers. Editors have published 2,225 of his manuscripts, including four poetry volumes. Crew has edited special issues of *College English* and *Margins*. You can follow his work at

<http://rci.rutgers.edu/~lcrew/pubs.html>

See also [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louie\\_Crew](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louie_Crew).

The University of Michigan collects Mr. Crew’s papers.

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# ANTI-RACIST ACTIONS

**Oct. 1 Occupy LA 1-year Rededication to Liberation**

Pershing Square, Sixth & Olive, 12 Noon; Rally, March, G.A. at 6:00 PM

**Oct. 6 Anti-War Protest on Afghanistan Anniversary**

Hollywood & Highland, 12 Noon; Pershing Square, 2:00 PM

**Oct. 12-15 ARA Network Gathering, Columbus OH**

International antifascist network gathering, registration info inside

**Oct. 13 Welcome Home L.A. at Chuceo's Justice Center**

Social Reintegration Resources for Formerly Incarcerated People  
3-5:00 PM, 1137 E. Redondo, Inglewood (near Florence & Crenshaw)

**Oct. 20 O.L.A. Themed G.A. on Police & Prisons**

12 Noon Pershing Square: Speak-Out and Discussion on the Criminal Injustice System

**Jericho Amnesty Movement to free all political prisoners**

5 pm So. Cal. Library, 6120 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles CA

**Oct. 22 National Day of Action Against Police Abuse**

**Oct. 31 Halloween Witches' March vs. Patriarchy**

All night at the Hollywood Halloween Parade

**November 2012 - 25th anniversary of ARA-LA/PART  
and 25th year of publication of Turning the Tide!**

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# TURNING THE TIDE

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Inside this  
Issue:

Prisoner  
Resources

Occupy the  
Future

Return to  
Black Mesa

ARA  
National  
Gathering

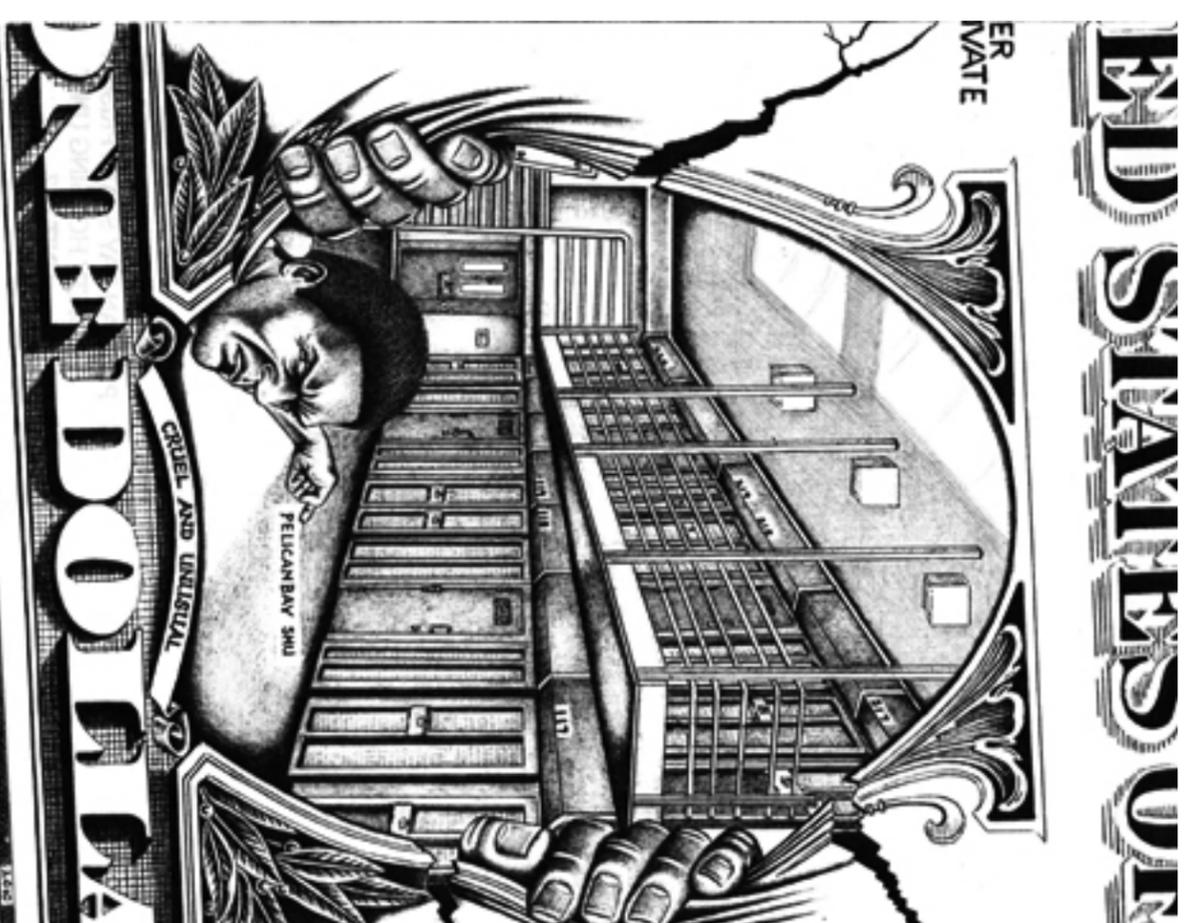
Agreement to  
End Hostilities

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Abu-Jamal  
on Attica

Virtual  
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