Fight Back Against Austerity, Inequality, and Racism

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

If you listen to the radio, you've probably heard the ear-piercing signal that checks the Emergency Alert System. "This is only a test," a recorded voice assures us. "In the event of an actual emergency, you would have received further instructions." In much the same way, the recently imposed "sequester" of federal funding and expenditures on both domestic and military spending is "only a test." Behind the finger pointing and spinning about who's to blame, commentators have been open about the fact that the sequester is a probe, to see how much pain the "American people" will sit still for. Unless there's outrage, more cuts are sure to follow. Liberals worry the sequester may stall the recovery. They don't get that this is exactly the point. It's no coincidence it took effect just as hiring finally began to increase. In the current economy, corporations are **threatened** by rising employment, which might result in increased labor costs. No surprise the stock market hit a new high after the sequester – the market typically goes **up** when unemployment increases.

Polls show about 38% blame the House Republicans and 30% blame Obama. Of course, they're both right. The "sequester" is a mutually-adopted stratagem by the Democrats and Republicans in collusion, to impose austerity under the guise of "partisan gridlock." Their hope is that the resulting sense of futility will turn people off to the extent that independent, direct political action against their corporate masters will be undermined. We should take the sequester as a challenge and opportunity to re-energize both mass protest and community-based economic and political alternatives.

Occupy proclaimed that housing, education and health care are human rights. In response, via the backdoor to austerity called the "sequester," Obama and Congress have eliminated \$1.9 billion in low-income rental subsidies, affecting 125,000 people. They have cut funding at the Department of Agriculture, eliminating rental assistance for another 10,000 low-income rural people. Emergency shelters for 100,000 homeless people will be shut. Education is also a target. \$715 million is cut from Title I, which serves a million+ students in poverty, and another \$400 million from Head Start, which funds preschool for poor kids. They're also slicing funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). They're reducing benefits to 3.8 million longterm unemployed by up to 9.4%. Of course, the sequester cuts the military too, but such reductions were inevitable in the wake of draw-downs from Iraq and Afghanistan and the turn towards robot warfare with drones under Obama. That's why the Republicans didn't blink about allowing the sequester to take effect.

If we're in a "recovery," why are such draconian measures needed?

Economist Immanuel Saez recently found ALL the economic gains between 2009 and 2011 (the last year for which data were available) went to the richest 1% in the U.S. In response, stocks are booming. The Dow Jones Industrial Average recently rose above 14,270 -completely erasing its loss between 2007 and 2009, setting a new record high. Corporate earnings have doubled since 2000, because the real median wage is now 8% lower than it was then. Profits are subsidized further by taxpayers (mostly individuals – corporate taxes, as a percent of total taxes, have plummeted). Facebook, for example, had profits of over \$1.1 billion in 2012, but the company is expected to pay no income tax. In fact, Facebook will receive net tax refunds totaling \$429 million, because they get tax deductions on executive stock options that are exercised.

Meanwhile unemployment and union busting reduce the bargaining power of most workers -- keeping wages low. Stimulus under Obama meant mostly tax cuts rather than public works, and the "jobs" component mostly allowed states and cities to keep the cops, firefighters and teachers they already had. Even such limited measures have now been rejected in favor of austerity. Meanwhile, low interest rates by the Fed have not resulted in job-creating investments. They just pushed investors into the stock market because government bond yields are so low.

Such profits disguise the reality that the rate of profit inevitably falls under monopoly capitalism, because of the ever-larger amounts of human labor embedded in "capital," and the ever-increasing costs of energy production as sources become harder to find and extract. Increased profits reflect an increase in exploitation, immiseration and environmental reservations, and prisons, is necessary if we are to counter the stratagems of the empire.

destruction, particularly globally. Hundreds of millions of formerly unwaged workers, Third World women, are drawn into capitalist production, and the ranks of the "reserve army of labor," the unemployed and lumpen, swell within the industrialized countries. Profits are also made possible by "bailouts," corporate welfare, and the privatization of

So why have the "American people" been sitting still for this? Repression has played a big role, breaking up the Occupy encampments and targeting militants, scaring others away. But at root, the question of privilege and racism is still central. For too many, the color line is still more important than the line between the 99% and the 1%. Unless we can break the grip of identification with the oppressor, and internalization of the Empire, we can't fight back effectively.

The facts are clear. The basis of inequality is racism, inextricable from capitalism within the US and globally. Brandeis University's Institute on Assets and Social Policy recently released the results of a 25-year study. They followed 1,700 working-class households selected at random from a nationwide sample. From 1984-2009, the wealth gap in "net worth" between black and white families tripled. In "constant" dollars, adjusted for inflation, the gap went from \$84,000 at the beginning of the study to \$236,500 at the end. The median net worth for whites in the study grew from \$90,851 in 1984 to \$265,000 in 2009. The median for African Americans went from \$5,781 to \$28,500 (barely 1/3 of white families' starting point in 1984). Tatjana Meschede, research director for IASP, concluded that, "There's a big overlap between economics and race," according to the Jackson Free Press. Unspoken is that since 2009, including the depths of the financial and economic bust and the anemic jobless "recovery," the gap has worsened. More here:

http://iasp.brandeis.edu/pdfs/Author/shapiro-thomas-m/racialwealthgapbrief.pdf

Blacks and Latinos were the victims of predatory high-interest lending - not its perpetrators - and then suffered the most from foreclosures. Minnesota civil rights groups just released a report called "The Wall Street Wrecking Ball: What Foreclosures Are Costing Minnesotans and What We Can Do About It," which notes that "racial disparities in subprime ...lending have been well documented." Because home equity constitutes a larger proportion of their wealth, median wealth fell by 66% among Hispanic households, and 53% among black households, compared to a 16% drop among white households. The report notes that "the median wealth of white households is now 20 times that of black households and 18 times that of Hispanic...s. These ratios are ... twice as high as ... existed before the onset of the housing crisis and recession."

This is reinforced by ongoing employment discrimination. Congress recently reported that, "With a jobless rate of 13.8% in January 2013, black workers are more likely to be unemployed than workers of other races and ethnicities." Studies show that formerly incarcerated white men are likelier to receive a job offer than a Black male with no record. The criminal injustice system clearly operates on a racist, colonial basis, disproportionately arresting and imprisoning Black and Brown women and men.

Unless these realities of racism and domestic colonialism are addressed head on, efforts at "progressive" or anti-corporate political action against the sequester will gain no traction. They will not be able to overcome the "fear factor" engendered by the wave of state repression that greeted Occupy. Capitalism is not "color blind," and we can't be either. The way to build real unity is on an anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist basis. This entails a break with the "lesser-evil" approach that traps people in the deadly embrace of the Democrats. Obama has deported more people than any president in history. Obama's actual economic policies have been ruinous for Black people. Obama embraces "free trade," the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the trajectory of military encirclement of China. Obama is not a captive of Empire, he is its front-man and helmsman.

The antidote to Obama is Black liberation, inter-communal solidarity, and anti-colonial, anti-capitalist struggle. Embracing true solidarity and the leadership of liberation forces from communities of color, communities of resistance in the ghettoes, barrios,

25th Anniversary Year Subscription Campaign for "Turning the Tide"

The first issue of "Turning the Tide" was produced in October 1988, a little over a year on-line and subscribe via paypal to antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com or wepay to "Interafter the launch of People Against Racist Terror, now Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles (ARA-LA/PART). That makes 2013 our 25th anniversary year. Not content to rest on our laurels as one of the longest-lasting grassroots anti-fascist and anti-racist publications, TTT is growing and developing this year, launched by a very successful fundraiser party on Feb. 9th, editor Michael Novick's 66th birthday. Held at Jewel's Catch One, the party drew about 250 people, with musical performances by Aztlan Underground, Lindsey Cristofani, and Leon Mobley and friends, among others, amazing cakes and food from Food Not Bombs and Large Marge Catering, comedy by John Vargas, presentations by Stephen Vittoria, film-maker of "Long Distance Revolutionary: A Journey with Mumia Abu-Jamal," and an audio by Mumia himself, and other festivities. After expenses, mostly for publicity and production costs for t-shirts and tote bags, we raised more than enough money to cover the printing and distribution costs of this issue. We also cemented the existence of a solid crew of contributors and formed an editorial board for "Turning the Tide" going forward. The revenue and input will no doubt be reflected in improved quality and accessibility of the journal, already manifest in a new website, http://tideturning.org, that dynamically brings the content into the 21st Century.

Phase two of our development plan is a subscription drive to put the paper on firmer financial footing on an on-going basis. To mark the 25th year of publication, we are seeking 250 new and renewed subscriptions to "Turning the Tide." These will subsidize the increasingly costly effort to mail the paper in to 1500+ prisoners around the US, over 500 here in California alone. If you are reading these words and are not a current subscriber, please subscribe today. TTT is produced without partisan subsidies, government funds, corporate underwriting or advertising, or foundation support. It's a labor of love, but freedom ain't free. It costs money to print, mail, and otherwise distribute the paper. We are in the process of seeking non-profit status for the Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee, under whose auspices *Turning the Tide* will be published going forward, but that's also a costly process. It will pay off in the long term in substantially-reduced mailing costs (unless Congress succeeds in destroying the US Postal Service). But in the interim, reader subscriptions and donations are the basis for continued publication and distribution of the paper. Fill out and send in the subscription form in this issue with your payment, or go

Communal Solidarity Committee."

Phase three, rounding out the year down to the actual anniversary date will be a fall gala, a dinner and awards show. This will include a special 25th anniversary tribute book featuring endorsements and advertisements and material from the 25-year history of "Turning the Tide." We will have submission forms for this commemorative book and more information about the dinner in the next and upcoming issues of the paper.

Don't delay -- Subscribe today:

\$16 individual/\$26 institutional or international annual subscription (for 4 quarterly issues). If this sub drive is successful we'll restore bi-monthly publication, and you'll get 6 issues for the price of four.

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Fill out and send to: Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232

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Special Offer for the 25th Anniversary campaign: A second sub for a friend, only \$14. A 3rd, another \$12. Fourth and further gifts \$10 ea.

Anti-Klan Protest in Memphis TN, March 30, 2013

The Ku Klux Klan plans a rally in Memphis, TN on March local NAACP, is a paid consultant of the Memphis Police 30, to protest the renaming of a park that was named after Nathan Bedford Forrest. Forrest was the first grand wizard of the Klan and a Confederate general in the Civil War whose troops massacred hundreds of slaves. The Klan has filed a permit with the City of Memphis to hold a march and rally on March 30 at the Shelby County Courthouse. "It's not going to be 20 or 30," one Klan leader threatened. "It's going to be thousands of Klansmen from the whole United States coming to Memphis." Reports indicate that various white supremacists and neo-nazis, including the NSM and boneheads are planning to join the KKK.

In response, a multiracial coalition of activists from across Tennessee and around the US will join Memphis opponents of racism in mass protest against the Klan. "This is 2013, not 1913. The KKK is a white terrorist organization whose fear-mongering tactics will no longer be tolerated," said JoNina Ervin, the acting chair of the Memphis Black Autonomy Federation (MBAF), a local social justice group that created the anti-Klan coalition. Hundreds are expected to participate in the protest led by the Ida B. Wells Coalition Against Racism and Police Brutality. "It is a disgrace that Memphis officials took so long to rename Forrest Park," Ervin said. "Most big cities in the south changed the names of parks and monuments named after Confederate generals years ago." Forrest Park was renamed Health Sciences Park.

The coalition was formed when the NAACP advocated 'ignoring' the Klansmen. "The president of the Memphis NAACP and the head of the local chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) shook hands this morning on Channel 3, agreeing to 'ignore' the Klan on March 30." Ervin said. "Rev. Keith Norman, president of the Department, which is why the NAACP has not said a word about the 13 people the cops have killed since [the beginning of last year. The SCV is a white supremacist organization, and it is a disgrace that the NAACP would collaborate with them."

The Memphis Black Autonomy Federation and the Ida B. Wells Coalition Against Racism and Police Brutality have a different response: an anti-Klan protest with all people of conscience invited. They will meet in the morning at City Hall Plaza, 125 N Main Street, Memphis, TN 38103, approximately a block and a half from where the KKK will be gathering. They will then proceed to confront the Klan gathering. In the afternoon they will gather at Health Sciences Park, 799 Madison Ave, Memphis, TN, 38103 (main crossroads at the park are Union and Walnut).

In response to their organizing efforts, the Hamilton County Sheriff's department in Chattanooga, has issued a fugitive summons for Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, who cochairs Memphis Black Autonomy Federation, which has organized several protests against police brutality and put out the national call. The summons stems from court costs the county claims that Lorenzo owes in connection with a 12-year-old misdemeanor conviction. Damon McGee, Mikail Musa Muhammad (Ralph P. Mitchell), and Lorenzo, the Chattanooga Three, were convicted in January 2001, for disrupting a City Council meeting in 1998 where they went to protest against police brutality. At the time, Chattanooga had the highest number of people killed by police in US cities with populations under 200,000. Damon has also received a "fugitive" summons. Mikail died in 2006. There is no statute of limitations on the collection of court fees and fines, and Damon and Lorenzo could be arrested at any time.

What You Can Do To Help:

1. Contact Criminal Court Judge Rebecca Stern, who presided over the Chattanooga 3 trial. Email, call or fax her and demand that she withdraw the "fugitive" summonses issued for Lorenzo Ervin and Damon McGee. Send email using the URL below.

http://www.hamiltontn.gov/EmailForm.aspx Call Stern at (423) 209-7500 or send a fax to her at (423)

2. Protest to Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond, who enforces summonses at the direction of the courts.

http://www.hcsheriff.gov/feedback/feedback.php Call the sheriff at (423) 209-7000, or send a fax to (423) 209-7001.

3. Write a letter to the Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct (see link below), complaining about Judge Rebecca Stern's 12-year harassment of Lorenzo Ervin and Damon McGee in the Chattanooga 3 case.

http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/sites/default/files/docs/ updated_judicial__complaint_form_ia_final_save_ enabled 06282012.pdf

If you live in or near Memphis, contact:

The Ida B. Wells Coalition Against Racism and Police Brutality c/o Black Autonomy Copwatch, PO Box 16382, Memphis, TN 38186-0382 organize.the.hood@gmail.com (901)674-8430. If you would like to coordinate ride-shares from other parts of the country, contact alice.notok@gmail. com Organizers have no funding. If you can send money to help with printing and travel costs, they request that you send it via PayPal to organize.the.hood@gmail.com The FaceBook event page is named "Anti-Klan Demonstration in Memphis, Tennessee, USA!!" https://www.facebook. com/events/238167059653339/

Anti-Racist Organizing in Calgary, Alberta, Canada

By Jason Devine

In April 2012 Kyle McKee, leader of Blood and Honour/Combat 18 (B&H/C-18) in Alberta, Canada, and two other members of his gang were arrested in Edmonton for carrying out what police described as a "racially-motivated attack" on two males. Kyle's house in Calgary was raided and police found numerous weapons, such as shotguns, rifles, machetes, etc.

The attack itself had occurred in the evening of March 24. Earlier in the day, Kyle and 15-20 other members and supporters of B&H/C-18 had attempted to hold a "White Pride World Wide" rally, before they were shut down in a matter of minutes by a counter-rally of over 200 anti-racists. Not only was their pathetic march prevented, but the boneheads were also chased into Edmonton's underground transit tunnels, before police stepped in to save them.

The sight of neo-Nazi boneheads being utterly outnumbered and prevented from freely rallying in Alberta isn't a new one. What was new was that the confrontation took place that year in Edmonton and not farther south in Calgary.

The fact is that ever since 2006 the struggle against neo-Nazi organizing has been centered in Calgary, when Kyle McKee and others first organized the Aryan Guard (AG). At the forefront of that struggle has been Anti-Racist Action Calgary.

The main focus of ARA Calgary's organizing had been on intel-gathering and then outing as many boneheads as possible. Working closely with allies at the Anti-Racist Canada blog, the personal information of known AG members was posted on the Internet and also printed as posters and distributed in neighborhoods where boneheads where known to be

This tactic was used to great effect in an earlier campaign in 2004 when members of ARA Calgary traveled to Red Deer and postered systematically within a four-block radius of the house of Glenn Bahr. Bahr was the leader of Western Canada For Us (WCFU), a neo-Nazi organization in Alberta, members of which later helped set up the AG. As a result of the posters Bahr was kicked out of his house and lost his job upon returning from a white supremacist meeting. Within a few days he moved up north to Edmonton and two months later his house was raided by the Edmonton Police Services Hate Crimes division. Bahr was later charged and convicted under Canada's hate crimes legislation for willfully promoting hatred. Another major tactic used by ARA Calgary was holding public rallies and marches. Ever since 2007 the AG made it known that they wanted to start holding annual "White Pride World-Wide" marches in Calgary. Their specific goal was to march to City Hall and demonstrate. Following from ARA's First Point of Unity, "We go where they go," ARA Calgary counter-demonstrated

Every year since 2007 we have demonstrated at City Hall, even when boneheads have been unable to march, thus creating a public anti-racist, anti-imperialist tradition in this most right-wing of Canadian cities. This year will be ARA Calgary's 6th annual march and it will be focused on highlighting the growth of public displays of white supremacist attitudes and language in response to the Idle No More movement.

The AG did not march freely in 2008: they were chased down the street and the police revealed their role as guardians of this neo-Nazi gang. In 2009, in spite of police protection and the violence of members of the police against anti-racist activists, the AG were utterly blocked and prevented from reaching City Hall. On March 21, 2008 the largest, explicit anti-racist rally and march in Calgary's history was held. That was repeated and exceeded in 2009 with the numbers of those attending far surpassing the previous year, to over 600

In 2010 as a result of Kyle McKee being jailed for a failed bombing attempt against a rival split off from the AG, the Western European Bloodlines (WEB), the AG's "White Pride



World Wide" march was cancelled. In 2011, as a result of uttering threats with baseball bat against me (also asking if I needed "another home invasion") Kyle was jailed. This did not prevent the AG from holding their rally, but with him in jail, with mounting bad press, and anti-racists outnumbering boneheads 20 to 1, their "march" was poorly attended and they did not reach City Hall. They were, however, chased as in previous years until they got away on public transit provided by the Calgary police.

In June 2011 two leading members of WEB, Robert Reitmeier and Tyler Sturrup, were arrested and charged with the vicious beating and murder of 47 year-old Mark Mariani, a man who was just walking to his car in an alleyway. On March 4, Sturrup finally pled guilty; he was sentenced to life with no chance of parole for 10 years. Reitmeier still has to face the court this fall. With this, the other WEB members have either left the movement, or more simply gone underground. Either way WEB is finished in Calgary.

As for the AG, despite its name change to B&H/C-18, its frequent attempts at both putting up posters (which we and other in the community immediately tore down and/ or postered over), and holding marches, it failed to achieve any sort of success and after 2009 suffered a continual loss of membership. In response to our successful organizing Kyle McKee decided to shift his focus to Edmonton, while still remaining their base of operations in Calgary. However, as a result of the failed bonehead march in Edmonton and Kyle's subsequent arrest Blood and Honour/Combat 18 in Alberta is organizationally

This is not to say that boneheads are no longer here. They are, but they are keeping it hidden and are not actively organizing. The organized neo-Nazi movement in Alberta is in total decline and for the present moment non-existent. However, as capitalism constantly produces racism and as white supremacy is a fundamental aspect of the Canadian imperialist state, the soil upon which neo-Nazism grows remains. Sooner or later they will return in some guise and when they do we'll be waiting.

With the immediate focus of ARA Calgary's activities gone, members have been busy building solidarity for political prisoners in Canada, specifically working to build support for the Justice for Mahjoub Network. The latter is a network dedicated to fighting the racist and Islamophobic Security Certificate system. A security certificate is part of immigration law that allows the Canadian state to arrest non-citizens without charge on the basis of their profile, detain them indefinitely and/or deport them.

More recently members of ARA Calgary have taken the initiative in forming the group Settlers in Support of Indigenous Rights & Idle No More – Calgary with allied activists in the city. Besides attending and promoting Idle No More actions, this new group has been focused on combating racism among white settlers and promoting anti-imperialism. The global struggle continues and there is no shortage of work to be done. Solidarity!

Vampire Holiday: The Passing of Chavez

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

The death of Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez has brought out the malicious and carnal glee of the corporate press, who report breathlessly not only of his mortal passing, but an end to the Bolivarian Revolution. They are the voices of their vampire Wall Street bosses, who delight in owning more of the Earth, no matter how much misery they may cause for millions.

In fact, Chavez was beloved by the vast majority of Venezuelans, poor, Indian and African, who saw in him their rising in the world. Upon his death, seven nations declared days of mourning in his honored memory – Cuba, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Iran. Ecuador's president, Rafael Correa, decreed three days of mourning, and called Chavez an inspiration of the revolutionary transformation sweeping throughout Latin America. Argentina's president, Cristina Kirschner, also ordered three days of mourning to mark the passing of Chavez.

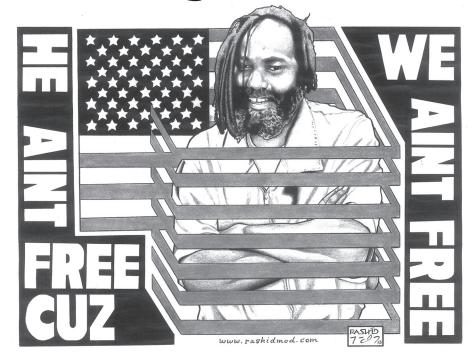
For millions of Latin Americans, Chavez brought dignity to them by refusing to play the puppet for "El Norte," the U.S. Empire. He helped found ALBA, the international Latin American bank, and became, in Fidel Castro's retirement, a son of his spirit, who learned from his mentor how to resist the Empire.

How many of us know that CITGO provided low-cost heating oil to over 1-1/2 million Americans, and that CITGO, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Venezuelan Oil, did so with Chavez's blessing?

When he took to the rostrum of the U.N., and said, "The Devil was here yesterday," and that the place smelled of sulfur, he was a global hit – except for U.S. puppets. The "devil" was U.S. imperialism, still a dangerous, drone-invading, bomb-dropping threat to millions world-wide.

Chavez, on the other hand, was loved and admired by millions, both in and out of Venezuela.

Viva Hugo Chavez! © 2013 Mumia Abu-Jamal



Get your copy of the new book by Mumia and Marc Lamont Hill "The Classroom and The Cell: Conversations on Black Life in America" at http://twpbooks.com/catalog/ the Cell: Conversations on Black Life in America" at http://twpbooks.com/catalog/ the Classroom and the Classroom and the Lorentzian Please make a contribution to help free Mumia. Donations to the grassroots work will go to both International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal and the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC). www.freemumia.com Please mail donations/ checks to: Free Mumia Abu Jamal Coalition, PO Box 16, New York, NY 10030 (Checks payable to: FMAJC/IFCO) Send our brotha some LOVE and LIGHT at:

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

Upcoming showings of Long Distance Revolutionary: A Journey with Mumia Abu-Jamal

Don't miss this brilliant, moving documentary, which situates Mumia's life and struggle in a flow of history over decades, from his childhood through his years on Death Row.

Santa Monica, CA — Opens March 16 Dormont, PA — March 21-24, 2013 Montpelier, VT — March 22-31, 2013 Toledo, OH — April 2, 2013 Norfolk, VA — April 3, 2013

And a critical premiere of the film in Philadelphia. Order tickets now to make sure the theater maintains its commitment to the booking in the face of inevitable pressure by the Fraternal Order of Police.

Philadelphia, PA — May 3, 2013

Support Philadelphia's 'Native Son' – Mumia Abu-Jamal – as the story of his life comes to downtown Philly in the acclaimed new film, MUMIA: Long Distance Revolutionary. The film plays at the Landmark Ritz at the Bourse from May 3rd through May 9th, four showtimes a day, and we are calling on all supporters of Mumia to help us SELL OUT EVERY SHOW. We MUST send a message to the establishment in Philadelphia that Mumia is not a villain but a national treasure. That is exactly what Long Distance Revolutionary shows so beautifully.

We anticipate establishment forces will pressure Landmark to cancel the film – let's head them off at the pass by selling so many tickets now, the Landmark will have no choice but to show this important film. Community leaders on the ground in Philly, such as Pam Africa, have already begun spreading the word and getting people to buy their tickets now. Some dedicated individuals are buying up to 10 tickets right now to either re-sell to friends or distribute for donation.

Even if you're not in Philly, but want to make an impact right at the core of the city that has perpetuated the lies and ongoing injustice against Mumia – then buy tickets online for donation. The filmmakers behind Long Distance Revolutionary will work with organizers in Philly to get these tickets into the hands of students, church groups and community organizations. This ensures that as many people as possible see this remarkable film AND that Philadelphia hears the message loud and clear: Mumia's life, his voice, his character and commitment to justice are to be celebrated. His struggle for justice is our struggle for justice. (NOTE: When donating, send email confirmations from the theater to info@mumia-themovie.com. For those wishing to buy more than 10 tickets, please contact the filmmakers at the same email address.)

When buying tickets online, please use the following link to select your date and showtime and to purchase your advance tickets. The actual link is far too long to print, but this shortened link will take you there: http://ow.ly/iAQPj

You can book a showing of LDR in your area easily through TUGG. Go to our page on their site and request a screening at a theater near you, then you send that screening date/time to a bunch of folks. If you can get enough people to buy tickets and fill a showing, they will book the film!

http://www.tugg.com/titles/mumia-long-distance-revolutionary

Also, if you know professors or educators who want to screen on a campus or library, let me know. There's an easy booking process with our distributor and a fee.

A Street Legal Cinema Production Written, Directed, and Edited by Stephen Vittoria Produced by Stephen Vittoria, Noelle Hanrahan, and Katyana Farzanrad

www.mumia-themovie.com

Youm Al-Ard, Land Day in Southern California

https://www.facebook.com/events/227521314061403/?context=create#!/events/227521314061403/

Youm Al-Ard - Day of The Land - has been marked world-wide yearly since the killing on March 30, 1976 of six Palestinians in Galilee by Israeli troops during peaceful protests over the confiscation of Palestinian lands. The Zionist occupation imposed a curfew effective from 5 PM on March 29, 1976 on the Palestinian villages of Sakhnin, Arraba, Deir Hanna, Tur'an, Tamra, and Kabul after it announced plans to take further thousands of dounams of Palestinian Arab land for "security and settlement purposes." In response Palestinians organized a general strike and protests from Al-Jalil in the north (Galilee) to Al-Naqab in the south on March 30 1976. During the protests, occupation soldiers and police attacked and killed six Palestinians, 3 women and 3 men, wounded 100, and arrested hundreds. Solidarity strikes were also held almost simultaneously in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and in most of the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. Youm al-Ard is particularly significant because it was the first time since the 1948 occupation that Palestinian Arabs in Israel organized a response to Zionist occupation policies as a Palestinian national collective. Palestinians and their supporters throughout the world have marked Youm Al-Ard annually ever since.

EVENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

As part of the annual Youm El-Ard/Day of the Land Activities in Southern California, Al-Awda, The Palestine Right to Return Coalition has organized the following program of events:

Los Angeles: March 29, a Day of the Land Demonstration will be held in Los Angeles. For details, please see https://www.facebook.com/events/269308646535702/

San Diego: March 30, Al-Awda's chapter in San Diego will be presenting the following program starting 5 PM at the Al-Awda Palestine National Center (2720 Loker Avenue West Suite J, Carlsbad CA 92010): A Youm Al-Ard and Spring Bazaar to help raise awareness and support for Al-Awda's work; a screening of the film "Degrees of Incarceration" followed by discussion with one of the film makers, Nidal Al-Azraq from Aida refugee camp. For additional information please email office@al-awda.org or call 760-918-9441

Orange County: March 31, at 11 AM with exact location to be announced, Al-Awda's Los Angeles/Orange County chapter will host a screening of "Degrees of Incarceration" with discussion by Nidal Al-Azraq. This will be followed by presentation by Khayrieh Zubaidi about the current dire situation in Al-Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp in Syria. For further information please email mazenalmoukdad@hotmail.com.

Ventura County: March 31, 5 PM at the Arroyo Vista Community Center the Conejo Valley chapter will host a screening of "Degrees of Incarceration" with discussion by Nidal Al-Azraq. This will be followed by presentation by Khayrieh Zubaidi about the current dire situation in Al-Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp in Syria. For further information please email amanibarakat@gmail.com or call 805-390-6480 or 805-217-7138.

Federal Bureau of Prisons Bans Media Access to Oscar López Rivera

by Jan Susler

Since the Presidential commutation in 1999 resulted in the release of 11 Puerto Rican political prisoners, the Federal Bureau of Prisons has denied all media requests to interview Oscar López Rivera, despite BOP policy allowing media interviews of prisoners, and in spite of allowing media interviews of other prisoners. Each rejection has used the identical, unsubstantiated excuse that "the interview could jeopardize security and disturb the orderly running of the institution." Media from Puerto Rico and throughout the US have been equally snubbed. The BOP denied requests from El Nuevo Día, Puerto Rico's daily newspaper with the largest circulation on the island; WAPA Television, the largest commercial television station on the island; the Bay Area's KPFA Pacifica radio station; and the Chicago Tribune.

Ironically, when López, currently housed at the medium security federal prison in Terre Haute, IN, was held at the supermax security federal prisons in Marion, IL and Florence, CO from 1988-1998, as well as in maximum security at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Chicago, 1986-1988, the Bureau of Prisons allowed regular access by various media. Some of the very same media recently denied interviewed him without adverse affect on security or the orderly running of the institution. These included Chicago's NBC affiliate WMAQ; awardwinning cable series, Labor Beat, of Chicago's public access network; Denver's widely circulated newspaper, Westword; the *Times of London*; the Pueblo (Colorado) Chieftain; Mother Jones magazine; the Associated Press; CNN; CBS; National Public Radio; WKAQ Television of Puerto Rico; etc.

As if the media blackout were not sufficient, the BOP also seems determined to deny other outside access to López. In August 2011, the BOP refused to allow five prominent New York State and City elected officials to meet with López.

There's no question that López is newsworthy — of the many Puerto Rican political prisoners arrested in the '80s for their pro-independence activities, he's the only one still in prison. Having served almost 31 years of a 70-year sentence, he has the dubious distinction of being the longest held political prisoner in Puerto Rico's history. His bid for parole last year, rejected despite broad support from the Puerto Rican community in the US and on the island, was widely covered, including by the *New York Times* and *Chicago Tribune*. When Obama visited Puerto Rico last June, the media and elected officials asked him about pardoning López, and the Puerto Rico media provided extensive coverage of the demonstrations supporting López's release.

The U.S. government ban, preventing López's voice from reaching his people and his supporters, hearkens to bans imposed by other governments and regimes once regarded as anti-democratic. Under the apartheid regime of South Africa, the media weren't allowed to quote banned anti-apartheid organizations or spokespeople, and were forbidden from reporting on prison conditions. At the height of the Irish Republican movement's efforts to end British occupation, the British government augmented an existing ban, prohibiting any broadcast of the voice any pro-Republican proponent. Government leaders articulated support for the ban as "a legitimate weapon for the state to use," in starving the movement "of the oxygen of publicity." Sinn Fein, the main target of the censorship, understood the censorship as a government attempt to silence its anti-occupation campaign. Commentators understood it also prevented the public and the government from fully understanding unfolding events.

The federal prison system, funded by U.S. taxpayers to the tune of \$6.8 billion, is a public entity. Transparency is crucial. Given the history of human rights violations in U.S. prisons, including prisons in which López was held for years in conditions of complete isolation amounting to torture, the need for media access is particularly critical.

The US government touts freedom of the press, embodied in the First Amendment, as it purports to set an example to the world. When the US hosted UNESCO World Press Freedom Day in 2011, the State Department declared: "The US values freedom of the press as a key component of democratic governance. Democratic societies are not infallible, but they are accountable, and the exchange of ideas is the foundation for accountable governance. In the U.S. ... the press fosters ...debate, provides investigative reporting, and serves as a forum to express different points of view, particularly on behalf of those who are marginalized in society." These sentiments are not honored in practice.

Perhaps the most marginalized in society are those behind prison walls. But the isolation of López goes beyond even routine marginalization. The US government, like apartheid South Africa and the British administration occupying the north of Ireland, recognizes who López is politically, and what he represents to his people — hence the ban on media interviews and outside access.

Only strong, vocal public support and a vigilant media and elected officials can ensure that conditions under which the BOP detains López are monitored and exposed, and that the public fully understands the politically punitive length of his sentence and the harsh injustice of his remaining in custody for 31 years.

Learn more about Oscar Lopez Rivera in his own words in "Between Torture and Isolation," available now from PM Press:

https://secure.pmpress.org/index.php?l=product_detail&p=511

Write to him:

Oscar López Rivera #87651-024 FCI Terre Haute, P.O. Box 33 Terre Haute, IN 47808 02863

or contact the National Boricua Human Rights Network at info@boricuahumanrights.org or write to

2739 W Division Street, Chicago, IL 60622.

Black Superman?! A Hero Against Racism for the Hood!

Christopher Dorner woke up the world to the barbaric nature of the racist L.A.P.D and other so-called law enforcement officers that patrol our community like an occupying army in Afghanistan or Iraq. He told the oppressor, I prefer to die on my feet then live on my knees. His courageous actions have shown us that the oppressor is NOT completely bulletproof, and yes, racist pigs do bleed! Contrary to popular petty-bourgeois belief, he did not want his damn corrupt job back. He wanted to be accepted back into the warm embrace of the Black community, after he almost betrayed us by accepting being in the racist police and white supremacist military. He tried to change the scandalous system from the inside, and it betrayed HIM and US as a people! He proved to us (by his actions) that he only joined them to steal the racist white man's killing skills!

Poor oppressed Black people (the lumpen proletariat) all over the country, who have been constant victims of police terrorism, have given him his honor and good name back. Despite what the racist mainstream news media say, he will live on in the hearts and minds of oppressed Black people still struggling to be free from Racism, Capitalism and Imperialism. Black people must unite to serve and defend the Black community.

Even though Chris Dorner supposedly died and has become a martyr, the racist police are still alive and armed to the teeth waiting for a chance to get revenge on ALL Black people. The trigger-happy pigs act like judge, Jury, and executioners. They illegally shot 3 <u>innocent</u> people driving two different trucks in the search for Dorner.

If you read the Internet social media, you will find that Black people in every ghetto are waking up and saying things like:

"Racist Amerika's evil karma has returned..."
"Y'all can dish it out but y'all can't take it..."

"What goes around comes around..." $\ \ \,$

"Chris Dorner is a little bit of Nat Turner, Geronimo Pratt, and Robert Williams all rolled up into one person. Nat was ruthless, Geronimo was in the military, Robert went on the run..."

"The police should be the ones banned from having guns, they're the biggest GANG in Los Angeles..."

"The chickens have really come home to roost..."

Christopher Dorner embarrassed the L.A.P.D when he exposed that the same police involved in the Rodney King beating, Rampart scandal, and May Day beating have all been rewarded with promotions to high rank. That means they are issuing genocidal orders to low-ranking paramilitary officers that work in the streets. Nothing has changed, it has only gotten worse.

The Black Riders declare "... We ride for an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of Black people. We ride because we believe we can end police brutality in our black community by organizing Black self-defense groups dedicated to defending our Black community from racist police oppression and brutality. The 2nd amendment to the U.S Constitution gives a right to bear arms. We therefore believe that all Black People should arm themselves for self-defense."

Black Power! All Power to the People! We will win the Revolution!

Written February 13th, 2013, So-called Black History Month

General T.A.C.O (Taking All Capitalists Out)
Leader and Chief Theoretician of the Black Riders
... the New Generation Black Panthers!

Neo-Fascism on the Rise

completely change the political structure of the country. Mandatory education has been reduced by two years, higher education has been cut, unemployment benefits have been reduced, and power has been concentrated in the central government. The latest changes mean that a similar simple majority of popular votes will translate into a 75% parliamentary majority by eliminating run-off rounds where opposition parties could unite against Fidesz candidates. Defenders of Orban's economic and social policies dismiss charges of racism, anti-semitism and discrimination against the Roma ("gypsies"). They describe the new Hungary as a "workfare" state – essentially a defense of forced labor.

Neo-Fascists in Greece

As has been well documented in the media, Greece is in the throes of an economic meltdown. Austerity measures aimed at paying off debt have plunged the economy into a death spiral, and sparked nationwide protests and strikes. Unemployment is at 27% and climbing. Much as the Nazis arose in Weimar Germany by exploiting economic conditions, Golden Dawn, an avowedly fascist political party, has been rapidly gaining power in Greece. Once an unimportant fringe group, Golden Dawn captured seven percent of the seats in parliament in the most recent election. Armed with government funding and the tacit cooperation of the police (many of whom are Golden Dawn members), fascists have adopted a strategy of terrorizing immigrants while offering basic social services restricted to Greek citizens.

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The Hungarian Parliament's governing majority approved the fourth amendment to the Basic Law since it entered into effect 14 months ago, 22 provisions that have renewed fears of a decline of Hungary's democratic institutions, due to the removal of checks and balances to the government's power. The vote went ahead despite calls for restraint from the EU, the US and international institutions, and street protests that continued into the night. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán told a meeting of MPs that approval of the changes would create an "irreversible" situation in which Parliament's role in protecting the constitution supercedes that of the Constitutional Court. As the House voted to reinstate in the Basic Law several measures that had been struck down by the Constitutional Court, the Socialist, Democratic Coalition and Dialogue for Hungary MPs boycotted the voting procedure. Orban's Fidesz party and Christian Socialist allies put the measures through.

How did "goulash communism" devolve into neo-fascism? Even anti-communist Hungarian émigré professor Éva S. Balogh admits that "with the introduction of democracy [after the fall of the socialist state] came existential insecurity, a huge drop in living standards, high unemployment, and of all things, homelessness ... things Hungarians were unaccustomed to. That was 20 years ago, and the people are still waiting for that prosperity they were seeking at the end of the 1980s. Instead came one austerity program after the other." In the 2010 national elections, 52.73% of the voters opted for Orbán's right wing nationalist party, Fidesz-KDNP. That translated into 67.88% of the parliamentary seats, giving Orban a two-thirds majority that would enable him to

First Person Personal:

Resisting Overt & Covert State Violence & Repression

by Vanessa Carlisle, Break the Lock program, Inter-communal Solidarity Committee

Over a year after my Nov. 30, 2011 arrest during the LAPD eviction of Occupy Los Angeles, I got arraigned and pled not guilty to two infractions (violations of municipal code, like speeding tickets). One of them was "loitering in a public park," another some anachronistic code that ends up being something lighter than "disturbing the peace."

I arrived for my pretrial hearing at Dept 40 in the Superior Court of downtown Los Angeles. I checked in with the public defender, Jimmy, who told me I was "pro per," meaning I was defending myself and had no attorney assigned to me. You don't get a public defender unless you are facing jail time, and infractions don't carry that possibility. They also don't carry the possibility of having your sentence lessened (like a smaller fine imposed) because of time you've already served, which means that the days I spent in jail are going to be effectively erased from the memory of the state. Like the arrests and time served that have been stolen from so many others before me, while even more punishments, red tape, confusion, and implicit threats of incarceration are levied at them. "Keep your head down or you will invite trouble," is the ethic of a repressive regime, of a police state.

The city attorney's rep called me to her desk to give me some paperwork and discuss my options. She informed me that the city was filing for a continuance, because the one officer who was capable of providing the necessary witness evidence against me was unavailable until after his SWAT training, which lasts until April. Normally for an infraction, if a defendant pleads not guilty and the officer who issued the ticket is unavailable, the charges are dropped. Let's remember I was not ticketed; I was taken into custody, detained for hours in zip-tie handcuffs, booked into Van Nuys Metro Jail, and held for two days.

In other words, instead of having this matter resolved, I'm being held hostage to three more months of informal probation. During that time, I can't get approved to visit a friend in prison at San Quentin, and can't get any more infractions without higher punitive consequence. I certainly can't get arrested or detained unless I am prepared to handle the consequence of a bigger case against me for a supposed "pattern" of behavior.

Here's yet another example of the California budget crisis getting passed to the working class, who usually plead guilty to infractions or have to pay them remotely, because who has time to go to court? Of course, most people would be happy to face an infraction instead of a misdemeanor to forego the possibility of jail time. It's a winwin for the state.

As I read the continuance document, I moved from annoyance at some bloated little bureaucratic skin tag to real rage at what began to feel like an intrusive cancer. I won't detail all of it here, but I'll give one important example. The continuance claims as its basic premise that only one officer has the necessary info for the case to proceed.

Without his testimony, the City can't prosecute, so the continuance is a request to wait until he's good and ready to get up and bear witness. Which will be after he's done with SWAT training.

Fact is: **three** male officers were involved in my arrest, and two used "pain compliance" on me that night. Although normally I don't talk to pigs, that night I did. I said, "The last man to touch me like that was a rapist."

I refuse to drop from the "official" narrative the dramatic political theater concocted by the LAPD that night. 1400 armed drones of the state, many with riot gear and rifles, stood in concentric circles around unarmed protestors for hours, before systematically brutalizing every person who didn't stand up when they were commanded to. They used pressure points in our necks and backs. They twisted our legs. They called that "peaceful." They kept the media out. One officer processing my paperwork said, "You work at USC? How could you do something so stupid?"

Well, which is stupider, participating in a system that hurts everyone, or saying NO and taking your lumps on your own terms?

I realize I can't write anything important, love anyone hard enough, work deeply enough at world-making projects, or overcome my fear (of pain, repression, abandonment, or death) if I haven't let go the notion that what I believe in has a chance in hell of fitting into the state structures America operates in. In other words, I fully embrace the adversarial relationship I am in with the institution of criminal "justice." I'm disgusted by it for not only myself, but in solidarity with the millions of people who are bullied into submission by its punitive capitalist formula. My story is only interesting insofar as it is a window into the larger injustice faced by thousands, many of whom have been convinced that this is just how life is lived in Los Angeles, in California, in America.

For those who are unable to stand and fight this kind of state-sanctioned abuse, and even for those who simply believe themselves unable, I have compassionate solidarity. I know what it feels like to be absolutely sure there is no other option but to let an outside force continue attacking you. I have practiced despair, and it is a self-perpetuating, destructive force that often wears a mask of "realism," "being honest about things," or "being practical."

I'm going to die whether I feel hopeless or not, so my goal is always to create something meaningful from what **IS**. My work and life are a piece of political resistance born in full view of the danger posed by the state's violence, and yes, I ask others to take those risks, as a member of the *Break the Lock* program and the Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee.

I have been inspired and comforted by others' stories and by the history of those who did the near-impossible, those who kept pressing on when the momentum of the powerful class seemed too strong to meet. Here's to all the people defying the oppressive silencing of a punitive and profit-driven dominant culture and state apparatus. Here's to those lifting the veil on coercion and abuse, in all its forms. Thank you.

The Los Angeles Anti-Eviction Campaign

by Ramona Hampton

Every day the media assure us the economy is recovering, that housing development is on the rise. Statistics and people's lives tell a different story. Today in L.A. County, over 9,000 houses -- the homes of 30,000 displaced people -- are up for auction or trustee sale. Depending on who you talk to, up to 150,000 people in L.A. County are homeless. L.A. sheriff's deputies evict 3,000 households a month.

The Anti-Eviction Campaign is the people's response. Following the path of a movement that has spread from Capetown, South Africa to Chicago and now to LA, the campaign provides neighborhoods with the tools to claim their human right to housing through legal and street actions

Ashraf Cassiem, a coordinator for the Capetown chapter, proclaims that, "In a capitalist democracy, you only have democracy if you can afford it. International companies cannot own us." With that battle cry, the LAAEC formed and declared: "We will empower the people to stand up and enforce their human rights. We will not allow any more economically motivated evictions in Los Angeles

without a fight.

Members have organized neighborhoods to help ten homeowners fight banks and real estate companies. They've started protecting renters and are exploring housing options for prison detainees who are expected to enter the housing market in record numbers under the early release program. Soon, the LAAEC will undertake reclaiming foreclosed homes for the homeless

Their current project is saving the home of Cathelene Hughes, a senior living in South Central. With the support of LAAEC, Mrs. Hughes has filed numerous legal protests to her eviction, canvassed her neighbors for support and held a block party for them, turned away the sheriffs, and spoken at churches and press conferences. She told this reporter, "The L.A. Sheriffs are not protecting the people. They're protecting the investors who are stealing our homes. They're being paid to let the investors take property from homeowners. Our elected officials aren't backing the citizens who are trying to build neighborhoods, homes, they're letting investors come in and take people's

properties. When it comes to voting, they promise us this, and they promise us that, but they still throw the people out. We'll be fighting this until it turns around, and I know I'm in the fight until it turns around."

According to Adam Rice, co-chair of LAAEC, "What we have in Los Angeles today is an all-out attack on the human right to housing on every level. Homeowners' homes are stolen from them, and most enter a rental market that has been inflated by their suffering and the suffering of others like them. Some end up on the streets along with 150,000 other people, who are then criminalized and thrown into the only form of housing the government supports: the prison system. For the imperialists, this is not about housing. This is about the break up of any sort of family unit in order to keep us isolated and confused so they can continue to control us."

JR Fleming of the Chicago chapter echoed those ideas: "Everyone should have a roof over their head. People tell us it's illegal for us to occupy our homes, it's illegal to take back the land. They're right, it is illegal, but it's morally right"

You can reach LAAEC at laaeviction@gmail.com, or on http://facebook.com/laantieviction, call 424-209-7990, or write to 3550 Keystone Ave #6, Los Angeles, 90034.

in Hungary and Greece

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Ordinary Greeks are mobilizing to prevent the fascist takeover. Neighborhood assemblies, immigrant solidarity groups, labor unions and others are resisting both Golden Dawn and the destructive government policies that created the economic collapse. Greek activists Sofia Papagiannaki, Thanasis Xirotsopanos and Vangelis Nanos are in the US on a tour, speaking about fascism and resistance in their country. Money raised will go to legal fees for anti-fascist organizers as well as the squats and free social centers that have become home base for anti-fascist organizing. Checks can be made out to The New Significance, a 501c3 not-for-profit that will handle funding for the tour.

Sofia Papagiannaki studied Computer Science in University of Crete and works as software developer. Since 2006 she's worked in the free social center Nosotros in Exarchia, Athens. She has been in the editing team of the anti-authoritarian news-magazine Babylonia. Vangelis Nanos studied Music and Acoustics at the Technological Educational Institute of Crete. He participated in student movements from 1995-99 (school occupations against school reform). He works on pirate radio and antifa patrols. Thanasis Xirotsopanos has been involved in the anarchist movement since early 90's. He participated in the squat community, the anti-globalization movement and social struggle concerning ecology, immigrants and free social spaces. Pavlos was born and raised in

Athens. He currently resides in Littleton, CO but has remained very involved with the struggles in his home country, especially with the magazine Eutopia (http://www.eutopia.gr), and the Greek group of libertarian communists (http://eleftheriakoi.blogspot.gr).

Antifa Speaking Tour 2013: http://antifaevents.wordpress.com/

Babylonia: http://www.babylonia.gr/
From the Greek Streets: http://blog.occupiedlondon.org/
Global Uprisings: http://globaluprisings.org/
Interference Archive: http://interferencearchive.org/
The New Significance: http://www.thenewsignificance.com/
Nosotros: http://www.nosotros.gr/
NYC ANTIFA: http://nycantifa.wordpress.com/

Re: Novick's Article, "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions"

[Ed. note: These are excerpts from a much longer letter by a prisoner in response to an editorial in the last issue of TTT. We tried to do justice to the author's intent. We will post the full text in the Break the Lock page at http://tideturning.org, along with other prisoner correspondence. A response follows.]

So I was sitting on my bunk, rocking out to some music studying 'The State And Revolution' by Lenin, when I'm somewhat surprised at mail call by the latest issue of TTT. Now, I have to say that we been enjoying your paper for some years now, it's one of the few sources of revolutionary minded literature I receive. Anyway, I agree with some of the stuff your paper talks about, in particular the formation and work of the New Black Panther Party, while disagreeing with some of the stuff the New BPP & TTT talks about, such as the concept of inter-communalism. [Ed.: This refers to Black Riders Liberation Party, not New Black Panther Party.]

A couple months ago I wrote your org. a letter in the spirit of Unity-Criticism-Unity with regards to your mislabeling definition of fascism. I listed my disagreement with it and referred you to some MIM literature. I've been wondering what your org. thought about that? Most likely you disagreed, but in what way exactly? While I did initially wonder these things, not anymore, and my point here is to come to the defense of MIM & MIM (P); in hope something useful to the revolutionary movement will come about. My aim is for us to further build ideological unity on matters of revolutionary-science.

Anyway, my issue is this; Mr. Novick in his attempt to illuminate the prisyn masses with regards to the differences between TTT's line and that of the MIM camp currently represented by MIM (P), United Struggle from Within (a MIM (P) led anti-imperialist mass org. for prisyners) R.A.I.M. and the Leading Light Community Organization...well, I'll just give you a review of the entire article. To begin, I hold MIM (P) in high regard not just because they hold the correct political line on everything politically meaningful under the sun, but because I owe my political development to them.

My first point of contention with Novick's article is when he erroneously makes the statement that MIM's position concerning the labor aristocracy is that it is a permanent labor aristocracy. That's false. Yes, the so-called amerikan "worker" is indeed part of the labor aristocracy and not "proletariat," as revisionists of varying stripes would contend. The amerikan "worker" forms a part of the l.a.; a sub-stratum of the petty-bourgeoisie. To continue to advocate for a false thesis of an Amerikan 'proletariat' is to advocate for multi-national/class unity that leads one to wait for the white working-class to wake and come to the oppressed nation rescue.

Novick is also incorrect in his statement that "MIM sees women and prisoners as elements of U.\$. society where there is prospect of revolutionary development." MIM never saw, nor does it today see first world wimmin as comprising an element of U.\$. society in which there is any real group oppression to speak of which would provide a prospect for revolution. Or in MIM's own words, "... MIM came to the conclusion, that like First World labor, First World women are mainly oppressors, not oppressed people."

We disagree with Novick's assertion that exploitation exists within the First World, outside the realm of commodity production in which waged labor "produces" surplus value. Exploitation is defined as producing something and not being paid for the value of what you produce (making an exception for people who are intimately tied

up in the production process, like janitors for example). As MIM has held, there is no exploitation going on in the U.\$., no surplus value being produced by the piggish labor aristocracy, and no super-profits being extracted within U.\$. borders. These are happening in the Third World, it's what modern day imperialism is all about; shipping finance, capital to the Third World and there enslaving the workers. What goes on here in the First World is nothing more than a re-appropriation of stolen Third World loot amongst the so-called "workers."

Novick is further wrong in his contention that we assume privilege and oppression as being "absolute phenomenon, unchanging and mutually exclusive." Quite the contrary, as dialectical-materialists we certainly know that nothing is absolute (except the struggle of the opposites) or unchanging. If such an absurdity were true than MIM (P) wouldn't be taking the time to help develop the imprisoned lumpen of which the rest of society has long since cast off into the abyss.

We recognize that there's indeed a obvious intersection in nation and class contradictions within the U.\$. In a sense, this is what MIM (P) work is all about; working with the lumpen, the oppressed nation lumpen in particular, so that we may not only build towards liberating our people, but so that we may liberate our class. This will be our contribution to the ICM and oppressed people of the world. However, there is a dialectical process and as such a lengthy process of stages of which phenomenon must go thru before change is complete. Mutually exclusive phenomena don't magically transcend from one stage to another.

The First and the Third World is currently locked in struggle. This struggle is representative of two mutually exclusive classes that are the bourgeoisie and the proletariat; this is the fundamental contradiction on a world scale. Furthermore, this contradiction has manifested itself into antagonistic form, which has manifested itself into the principal contradiction on a world scale; which is of course, imperialism vs. the oppressed nations.

Now, objectively, what side of this contradiction are we on? First World "workers" and Third World labor are two mutually exclusive phenomena, not just because the former feeds off the latter, but because both hold different positions with respect to the global relations of production and worldwide means of production as well. What Novick keeps blinding himself to here is that there is a quantitative/ qualitative difference between the First and the Third World, in wage differentials, living standards and government services. [These] are representative of real life material interests which chain the supposed First World "proletariat" to the imperialist fatherland.

How many times in history have First World "workers" risen to remove the mountain of imperialism off their backs, in contrast to the Third World masses? If anything, history has proven the only thing First World people get off their lazy asses for is to clamor for more super-profits and the wars they engender. Even with a catastrophic economic crisis Amerikans will not easily forget how good they had it and would rather go to war for the privilege of Big Mac fries than suffer the plight of the truly oppressed & exploited. We know Amerikans will not reform of their own accord, and so a Joint Dictatorship of the Proletariat of the Oppressed Nations will have to be instituted over the former global exploiters so that we may be integrated into socialist society.

The next paragraph is so ridiculous that I was initially taken aback when reading it. Seriously? "MIM isolates prisons

from the social contradictions they enforce"?! Please, inform yourselves properly on that which you criticize. The Maoist-Internationalist Movement and its spin-off organizations have long since held that the amerikan prisyn system largely emerged as a form of social control to maintain in check the superfluous lumpen population of the Black, Brown, and First Nations following the national liberation struggles of the 60s and 70s. MIM is the only org. in the U.\$. working to politically develop the U.\$. lumpen so we may become the subjective motivating force for the liberation and self-determination of the oppressed internal semi-colonies that are New Afrika, Aztlan, and the various First Nations! They alone have been doing this for many years now. And where has the rest of the Amerikan left been in all this besides squealing for more blood, sweat, & tears from the Third World?

I'm wondering if your org. has ever heard of 'Under Lock & Key'? UL&K is the voice of the anti-imperialist movement within prisyns in the U.\$. UL&K serves as a forum to develop and promote agitational campaigns led by MIM (P) and UVW. UL&K is edited and published by MIM (Prisons), and mostly written by UVW and other United Front org. behind bars. See prisoncensorship info for more on the important work currently being carried out by the MIM (P) cell.

Another outright lie by Novick is his statement that "MIM's view obscures class and colonial contradictions in the U.\$." And what exactly is meant by the statement that "...privileges and class domination exist outside them in so many so-called Third World societies aligned with imperialism or competing for advantage within the imperialist system"? Do I detect a hint of great Amerikan chauvinism, or am I just trippin?

Now, I didn't wanna throw it out there like this but damn, is Michael Novick a cop? Is he an agent provocateur? Don't get me wrong, but I know an undercover cop when I see one and I know an agent when I read such filth! Don't believe me? Fine, go to prisoncensorship.info and see for yourself.

As if all this isn't enough Novick once again shows his Trotskyist colors when he criticizes "cross-class" alliances, in particular the United Front method of work, you know, the same U.F. that brought us such victories as the Soviet Union in 1917 and the People's Republic of China in 1949. Novick makes it appear as if the struggle in South Africa was a People's War waged for national liberation, self-determination, socialist dictatorship and influenced by MIM. The disaster in S. Africa had nothing to do with a communist vanguard led United Front, but rather, everything to do with its lack thereof.

Finally MIM's definition does not "ignore" the exploitation of the planet or the exploitation that occurs in unwaged labor (migrant labor in the First World today, the only real unwaged labor that's occurring on a group or class level and is why we say that migrants are the only real proletariat to speak of in the U.\$.), nor is the concept of surplus value ever irrelevant when speaking of the money that lines the pockets of First World populations.

Please refrain from making such fallacious remarks about MIM, cause it ain't gone nowhere but to the belly of the beast from where it'll help destroy Amerikan imperialism

Long live the legacies of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, and Mao!

Ipso-facto long live MIM!

The Editor of TTT Responds

The commentary in the last issue about differences between the editor's perspective and the Maoist Internationalist Movement happily provoked quite a few responses. We hope to increase our capacity to encourage serious political discussion. Thanks to the comrade for his above explication of MIM's line. As the original article implied, this is a contradiction among the people (despite the letter-writer's accusation that your editor is a cop and/or agent provocateur).

100 years ago, Lenin insightfully wrote that the principal contradiction in the world was between oppressor and oppressed nations, but that doesn't eliminate other contradictions within and between nations, classes, and individuals. Lenin led a change of the slogan of the International from "Workers of the World Unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains!" to, "Workers and Oppressed People of the World Unite! You have a world to win!" This summarizes 3 critical understandings. 1) The unity that must be built extends beyond workers; anti-oppression, anti-colonial work is critical to building that unity. 2) Workers and oppressed people may have something to lose besides chains; we have stakes and ties in the very system that oppresses and exploits us. 3) Working and oppressed people have to build a new, different and better world.

One needn't be a Leninist to recognize these truths. The problem I see with MIM is that in its staunch defense of the significance of the contradiction between oppressor and oppressed nations, and its doctrinaire reliance on its version of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, it petrifies all other contradictions and the flow of history. This is detrimental to the cause of revolution it espouses.

The U.S., like Czarist Russia, isn't a "nation" but a prison-house of nations. Because of its founding and development as a white supremacist settler-colonial empire, incorporating indigenous land and people, importing and subjugating Africans as chattel slaves, its ongoing conquest and expansion, because it bases its culture on the dog-eat-dog mentality of capitalism, the US is riven with internal contradictions. These existed long before it became the HQ of a globe-spanning empire, and intensify even as the imperialists loot and bully the planet. African, Hawaiian, indigenous, Mexican, Inuit, Puerto Rican, Guamanian and other people are not "semi-colonies," they are colonized peoples whose land, labor and resources are currently being stolen by the Empire. Ignoring this reality by classifying all working people within the US as "oppressor nation petty-bourgeois labor aristocrats" disarms those who have the capacity to break both their chains and their identification with and links to the Empire.

The existence of imperial super-profits doesn't negate the existence of simple profits. Super-exploitation doesn't mean there's no regular exploitation. No private employer hires a worker unless they're pretty damn sure the work that worker does will make the boss more money than the boss has to pay for the work. If not, you're fired. Internally, the US Empire continues to exploit (and thereby destroy) the air, water, soil, and life-generating capacity of the lands and people under its direct domestic domination. Capitalism and imperialism haven't eliminated all prior forms of oppression; far from it – they've heightened the exploitation of women, peasants, all others species of life, of the soil and sea. We can't abandon or abstain from the struggle behind enemy lines against all those forms of exploitation and oppression that continue to be vital to the Empire.

If the domestic population is totally bribed and benefiting from Empire to the exclusion of any contradiction, why are the gulags necessary? Why would the US have a quarter of all the world's prisoners? Why would there be more European-descent prisoners today than the entire prison population 40 years ago? Why would the NDAA, or the militarizing of cops, schools, and the border be necessary? Not death squads yet, but not one big happy family.

continued on next page...

Writing Through the Walls

United K.A.G.E. Brothers

Revolt Greetings!

I believe in recognizing every human being as a human being - Neither white, Black, Brown or red!

-Malcolm X

Every day I'm struggle in tooth & nail among the Bias Overheads 2gether me and my United K.A.G.E. Brothers here at CSP 270 A yard have come in solidarity to advocate against the injustice, racism and inhumane living conditions that we face-off with every turn we take.

I and UKB-Union Group will be in Solidarity with the July 8th Hunger Strike, Single cell, Work Stoppage Mass Prisoners Movement. I am also in solidarity with Prisoners Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition (PHSS) which is a pen pal program with anti-racists, 'outside the walls.'

My hope is that you all here at Anti-Racist Action could assist us as far as finding those people of interest to become outside volunteers or sponsors for our (UKB) Self Help Study Groups. For more, contact us by email via

www.FriendswithPens.com/AKAGE BrotherRedemption
-In Struggle P.F.

Something Russ Said

Not long ago, October 2012, Russell Means passed on, after a life of struggle against the culture of the Invaders of TURTLE ISLAND, a culture that in all its facets changed the destiny of the native peoples of the western hemisphere. As a Warrior and leader, Russ took on several battles. One was the re-occupation of the Black Hills of South Dakota at Camp Yellow Thunder. There I met Russ and listened to him talk, while performing tasks in or around camp, gathering firewood, during meals, sweats, putting up the sundance arbor, etc.

That's when I heard "Something Russ Said." Specifically, that Native Americans aren't criminals for breaking the laws of the US. The only laws they're subject to are tribal laws, compliant with traditional standards. The wealth of non-natives is the result of invasion and stolen from Native Peoples, and we're just taking back what's ours. I'm not quoting verbatim, but it's the essence of what Russ more eloquently conveyed. Something for people to think about when evaluating an alleged criminal act committed by a Native American. Was the act a crime, or an act of war and/or resistance?

However you, the non-native, defines who is a political prisoner, your definitions aren't applicable to Native Americans, unless you understand the effects invasion and subjugation have upon Native peoples. Most acts deemed crimes by non-tribal governments can be attributed to the conquest of Native Americans, and this makes us political prisoners and POWs. Ask yourself who's the real criminal, the Native American in prison, or you? The native, serving a harsher sentence than a non-native for the same act, denied the opportunity to practice our spiritual beliefs, which for many only awakened after coming to prison. That would be 'growth' that prison administrators reward in non-native prisoners, but they discourage Native Americans, as it enhances unity and discourages assimilation.

Native Peoples have become self aware in part due to Russell Means's service to the People. He remains an example of resistance despite those who would dishonor his service by disparaging his acting or assassinating his character. The blame lies with the US Government and its covert tactics to destroy AIM and the goals it sought to accomplish for the Native Peoples and continues to do to this day.

In the Spirit of Resistance, Eric Wildcat Hall

Editor Responds

...continued from previous page

Why would the total-surveillance State operate with impunity inside the borders? As any prisoner can attest, privilege coexists with oppression, but a prisoner granted privileges by a CO or warden is still a prisoner.

On the other hand, if the oppressed nation category encompasses all of Africa, Asia/Oceania and Latin America, how do you account for the mass reactionary, counter-revolutionary base inside Venezuela, or Libya, or Indonesia? How account for Brazil as a gendarme of imperialism in Haiti and elsewhere? How do you analyze China's role in the re-colonization of Africa, extracting natural resources, selling finished goods, and cutting deals with repressive regimes that oppress their own people? How do you deal with the Arab slave trade, or the importation of Asian Muslims by the Saudis and the Emirates?

The world is inherently and inevitably more complicated than any slogan or model can contain.

Revolutionary strategy must be based on a concrete analysis of concrete conditions, not arbitrary, fixed categories, to determine friends and enemies.—MN

Ad Seg: High Desert State Prison, NV

I received your card around 12-10-12. Sorry for the delay but I've had some chaos to deal with here, part of which is a settlement on litigation that may put me on the streets... I'll believe it when I see it. Anyway, I think I have the mail situation fixed – they deny anything dealing with *TTT* but they already admitted to rejecting "Under Lock & Key" so I have them on the spot . . . (no, I'm not Maoist but MIM does put work in on prison issues and it's all one fight really). So, hopefully the next issue will not vanish. Attached is a submission. There's a lot going on at this prison and there's a lot of scrutiny. This is just a glimpse.

In Struggle and Solidarity,
Musu

No Holiday from Oppression

On 1-1-13 a racist pig named Yates assaulted a Black prisoner in the presence of his supervising officer. The supervisor did NOTHING to prevent the assault, nor to stop it once started. The supervisor refused to call a Lt., give the prisoner an emergency grievance or request medical attention. After C/O Yates failed to grab the prisoner through the cuff port, he attempted to break the prisoner's arm by kicking the cuff port flap several times with the prisoner's arm in it.

Since November this same C/O targeted two other Black prisoners. One has gone elsewhere but the second, a diabetic and litigant, is still here. His problems began with his medically prescribed tray. Yates has since engaged in repeated and persistent provocation, threats, disciplinary action and property confiscation to the point that this prisoner can't leave his cell for a shower or rec without fear of losing his property or having his cell destroyed. He and the prisoner assaulted on 1-1-13 were both told by this same pig that he would starve them. Yates said he'd kill them, watch them die and enjoy every minute of it and that he'd make their lives a living hell.

He has made it clear that grievances are useless, that admin has his back and if he did kill one of us he'd get a promotion and a pay raise...says he can't be fired.

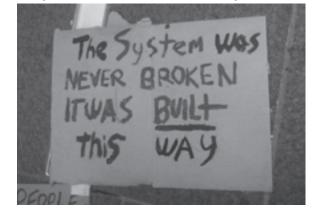
This attitude is not uncommon at HDSP. This pig and others (especially in Seg) routinely refuse emergency grievances or throw them away, refuse to call supervisors, leave prisoners in cells without property for weeks, withhold food as "punishment," refuse to answer call buttons, and leave the heat off. My first 5 days were spent without my religious diet, effectively starving me. I'm certain this was part of the retaliatory program along with my Seg placement for helping others with litigation and grievances and organizing complaints about conditions.

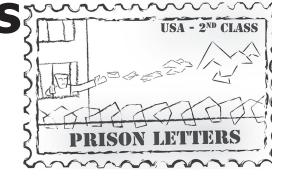
A few of us are fighting but it's difficult to do so collectively in Seg. Ordinary apathy is amplified during the "holiday season"... This has always been hard for me to comprehend – these are kapitalist holidays which celebrate genocide and destruction of whole cultures and capitulate the oppressor/ class system. These aren't holidays to which we're invited – they're imposed. Thanksgiving was declared by Gov. William Bradford in 1637 to celebrate the murder of 700+ Indigenous people of all ages and genders during the Pequot Massacre...And we all know about Columbus as

In Nevada we get better food on kapitalist/konqueror holidays. Everybody puts on a happy face and gets some holiday cheer. The rest of the year we're starved and treated like herd animals. I'm 50 and have been captive barring 3 years since 1976 (do the math) and this has been the case every year. These are not our holidays and I find the national obsession with celebrating mass murder (and mass imprisonment) disturbing.

In hindsight, some racist pig assaulting a Black prisoner on a kapitalist holiday is "in step with tradition," I guess.

We'll continue our fight against these institutions and it is not easy, because for us there are no holidays!





Another Response to MIM(Prisons)

Hello, I am called Ruin. Thanks for sending me this issue! I read your article, and was pleasantly surprised to find that we share similar views concerning MIM(PRISONS) and its ideological shortcomings. MIM(PRISONS) kicked me out of its study groups because I dared to venture alternative perspectives on what it presents as categorically one-sided. I think what irritated them the most is that I was presumptuous enough to attempt opening discussions about several points in their ideology within the framework of their ideology. As you basically said, MIM(PRISONS) can't think outside the box. I've decided to send you correspondence I saved from MIM(PRISONS) for just this occasion: to send it to a like-minded individual or organization who can make proper use of it as the evidence of obtuse alienation that it is.

Because of what I read of your personal opinion, I'm willing to send you more information regarding my resistance activities, my writings and art, or anything else I can tell you about. I was born in Redding, CA, raised in CA, and incarcerated in the CYA (now CDCR-DJJ) at NYCRCC, O.H. Close, Preston, El Paso del Robles, SYCRCC, and N.A. Chaderjian from Sept. '99 to Feb. '07. I'm very active here in the TDCJ, even though I am in not only Ad. Seg. but "Super Seg."

I have alot to share with you and the ICSC if you use the enclosed SASE to write back to let me know whether or not you even give a fuck, and if so, what you would like for me to provide you with. I'm a hard-worker and very sincere about ending all oppression, and if you give me an honest chance I promise I'll prove to be a worthwhile expenditure of your time.

Thank you, again, for the issue of "TTT". Please continue with providing the type of realistic, holistic perspective so very much needed within the global community of radical ideologies.

Take Care, Be With Peace Ruin AGAINST ALL AUTHORITY

[name redacted] 2661 FM 2054 - Coffield Unit Tennessee Colony, TX 75884

Here's their letter to me regarding our study group:

Revolutionary greetings!

This is to inform you we received your letter from 9/14, a response to MIM(Prisons) regarding the level 1 assignment, and the response to MIM(Prisons)'s letter to you from 8/13 regarding your criticisms of *MIM Theory 7*.

We want to inform you that you will not be moving from level 1 to level 2. In your letter you said you were working on an essay to trade for the study group. We are still interested in reading your essay, so you should feel free to send it. However it will not grant you access to the level 2 group.

This is because you disagree with MIM(Prisons)'s line on many fundamental issues, and just as you say that the intro group has been a waste of your time, it's a waste of our time to study with people who consistently disagree with us. There must be some unity and growth in the study process for it to be worthwhile, and you expressed that you don't agree with anything we say, either. For these reasons we are choosing to discontinue this study relationship.

Just like any other prisoner, we will still keep your subscription to *Under Lock & Key* active if you renew it every 6 months. If you change your mind about some of the issues we've discussed and would like to study with us again, please send us a self-criticism and we will consider that prospect.

In Struggle,

MIM(Prisons), intro study group PO Box 40799 San Francisco, CA 94140

Inter-Communal Solidarity Comm.

P.O. Box 1055

Culver City CA 90232-1055

First Class Postage

Calendar of Up-Coming Activities

Wed., March 20, Communiy Control of Police meeting, Occupy the Hood L.A. Action Assembly, 7 PM, Location TBA facebook.com/groups/OccupyTheHoodLosAngeles/

Thursday, March 21 7 PM Women of Power on the Power of Women KPFK Women's History Event featuring LaaLaa Shakur of BRLP and others Jewel's Catch One, 4067 W Pico Blvd. Los Angeles CA (near Crenshaw).

Tuesday March 26 5 PM Planning meeting for Russell Maroon Shoatz event 1905 Rodeo Road, L.A. with Matt Meyer, national co-coordinator of Maroon tour 7 PM: "We Have Not Been Moved: Resisting Racism & Militarism in 21st Century" Book event at Eso Won Books, 4331 Degnan Blvd, Los Angeles, CA.

Saturday, March 30, National Mobilization against the Ku Klux Klan, Memphis TN Also, 6:30 PM Party for John Johnson of *Change-Links*, 3916 Sepulveda, Culver City

Sunday, April 7, 9 AM, Zapata March for Legalization & Social Revolution from 2208 E. 1st St., ELA to Mission & Main, Lincoln Heights

Sunday, April 14, 10 AM "Marvin Jackson Breakfast"

So. Cal. chapter of Black Panther Party for Self-Defense and Black Panther Party, at Aunt Rosa Lee's Mississippi Soul Food, 2781 S. Western Ave., Los Angeles CA 90018. For info: Freeman, 323-294-8320 turday, April 20, 5 PM Jericho Amnesty Movement Los Angeles chapter meeting.

Saturday, April 20, 5 PM Jericho Amnesty Movement Los Angeles chapter meeting So. Cal. Library for Social Studies, 6120 S. Vermont, L.A. (every 3rd Saturday)

May 1 March for Immigrant Rights - Peoples' Power Not Corporate Personhood!

Internationa Workers' Day

Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education

TURNING THE TIDE

Volume 26 Number 2*ISSN 1082-6491*April 2013 DEFEND MOTHER EARTH!DEFEAT THE EMPIRE!

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Women Resist Gender, Race, Class & National Opression

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