

The Alliance of White Nationalism and Black Reaction

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

The specter of a major candidate for the Democratic Party nomination for President of the US running as a naked white nationalist was one that many thought had been put to rest in the 1920s, after the decline of the WWI era Ku Klux Klan. Yet Hillary Clinton has resurrected that grim reality recently in announcing that her candidacy represented “hard-working Americans, white Americans.” Although it still seems likely at this writing that her personal candidacy is doomed to defeat, the grip of that ideology in large sectors of the white electorate in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky and other states has been quite evident. And her success in drawing many white voters to that explicitly white banner is being emulated by other politicians.

Tony Zirkle, a South Bend attorney and Republican candidate for Indiana’s 2nd District congressional seat, standing in front of giant portrait of Adolf Hitler, addressed a meeting of the American National Socialist Workers Party in Chicago on April 20, celebrating Hitler’s birthday. Zirkle spoke next to people wearing swastika armbands and with a nazi flag in the background for the speech. He defended his actions by saying: “I’ll speak before any group that invites me. I’ve spoken on an African-American radio station in Atlanta.” He compared his speech to other politicians appearing at Bob Jones University. He claimed his intention was to talk on his concern about “the targeting of young white women ... for pornography and prostitution.” In March, Zirkle raised the idea of segregating races in separate states. Zirkle said later he’s not advocating segregation, but said desegregation has been a failure. Zirkle received 30 percent of the vote in the 2006 Indiana primary, losing to incumbent Chris Chocoma, who was defeated in the general election. Zirkle told the press that winning the election is not his primary goal. “My primary purpose is to educate and inform.”

Here in southern California, openly racist figures from the anti-immigrant movement such as Joe Turner of Save Our State and a former leader of the vigilante Minuteman have run for office in the Inland Empire and Orange County respectively, both losing. In Los Angeles, William Daniel Johnson, aka Bill Johnson, the author of the racist Pace Amendment to restrict US citizenship exclusively to people of white European descent, is running for a judge’s seat in the June 3 election. Johnson has always been more covert in his racism, using the pseudonym “Pace” to author the proposed constitutional amendment, for example. He has run for office unsuccessfully previously, including for the Congressional seat opened up when Dick Cheney became vice-president. Johnson’s odd political career emphasizes another aspect of the white supremacist movement – its willingness, indeed interest, in making common cause with reactionary, neo-colonial elements in the Black community in order to disguise the racist nature of its program. This tendency goes back to the World War I KKK which sought meetings with Garvey, even while attacking other elements in the Black liberation struggle of the time. Johnson, in Pace Amendment Advocates, supported the repatriation of people of African descent to Africa, and hooked up with a Black pseudo-nationalist named Robert Brock, a member of the Board of Policy of the anti-semitic and anti-immigrant Liberty Lobby. Brock’s argument was that he preferred to work with an open white racist that with covertly-racist white liberals. He fronted for the Populist Party in L.A. (the party of David Duke, Bo Gritz and open neo-nazi Joe Fields).

The current day reincarnation of Brock (who left for greener pastures in DC) is pro-police, pro-Republican charlatan Ted Hayes, who has lined up with the “minuteKlan” anti-immigrant hysteria, and particularly with “Save Our State,” (the most thuggish of the anti-immigrant, anti-Mexican groups, whose members spout openly racist diatribes in their on-line discussion groups) and the California Coalition for Immigration Reform (CCIR). Joe Fields, the above-mentioned leader of the local Nazi party, was one of the founding organizers of the CCIR, which also included other openly racist anti-immigrant groups. CCIR was a major force in the unconstitutional Proposition 187, which would have denied medical care or education to the children of undocumented workers, and deputized health care and education providers, teachers and nurses, to ferret out the immigration status of patients and students. An associate in Orange County drove his car at several immigrants rights demonstrators last years, hitting two, including the executive director of the National Lawyers Guild.

In the wake of 9-11, Hayes, once the self-styled “king of the homeless,” has draped himself in the flag, anti-communism and anti-terrorism, and made common cause with the most retrograde forces in the anti-immigrant movement while claiming he is doing so to defend the Black community. Two years ago, he showed up at an anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant protest outside a mosque in Culver City, driving a truck bearing a lynching-in-effigy. This has been consistent with Hayes’s long-term reactionary pro-police politics (Hayes lived in Orange County and raked in big bucks from ARCO while claiming to speak for the homeless). He has showed up at hearings to defend the LAPD against charges of abuse, and some years ago, sic’ed the LAPD on a Food Not Bombs chapter feeding the homeless in Pershing Square downtown (an act of harassment that resulted in a lawsuit against the city and the LAPD).

Last year, Hayes led “minute-klan” rallies at Leimert Park in the heart of LA’s Crenshaw Black community. In one, he was met by an impromptu gathering of neighborhood residents and activists who chased him off. The second time, allegedly celebrating “June ‘Teenth” (the anniversary of Texas learning about the Emancipation Proclamation on June 19), Hayes led a permitted march and rally with police protection of a few Black supporters and a few more white anti-immigrant marchers from SOS and CCIR. His march and rally was met by a spirited and organized resistance from the community, led by the Black Riders Liberation Party, Union del Barrio, Puerto Rican Alliance and other groups. Hayes ended up getting himself arrested. In the



Food Wars

column written 4/21/08 and copyright (c) 2008 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

Like a shadowy echo out of history, angry throngs massed at the Big House in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. But this time, they were not clamoring for freedom. Or, if they were, it was for freedom from hunger.

Their protests shook the government, and forced the Prime Minister, Jacques-Edouard Alexis, to step down.

Several years ago, we saw massive protests in Oaxaca, Mexico, against exorbitant hikes in corn prices, the grain which forms the basis, and is the staple of the national diet (tortillas and tacos). In Egypt, bread prices are so high that the army has been called in to stifle dissent, and to distribute bread. Wheat, corn and other such grains are becoming so expensive that millions of people around the world are seriously threatened by hunger.

The cause? In truth, there are many, but perhaps chief among them is speculation and anticipated demand for

bio fuels, or the use of grains to produce fuel to run cars.

Many grains are held off the food markets, to await better prices for bio fuels. In other words, people are going hungry -- facing starvation - so that people can pump fuel into cars. If ever there was an encapsulated image of the mercenary nature of capitalism, it can be seen in this one example: filling cars instead of feeding people.

This is also a window into what we have come to call globalism.

There are 5 major companies that control some 85% of the world’s grain trade, and nearly half of the world’s grain production. As huge multinationals, will they utilize this power to feed the people of the world, or to maximize profits?

same period, he also fronted for a ‘minuteKlan’ counter demonstration against a downtown immigrants’ rights march. For a year, he has been propagandizing against the Black Riders, smearing them in statements to the Black press and showing up at the court proceedings against them in the company of his buddies on the LAPD. He has also been attacking Black radio public affairs personality Dominique Di Prima (daughter of Black revolutionary activist and cultural figure Amiri Baraka) who exposed the white racist involvement in Hayes’s anti-immigrant partners.

Now Hayes and his white racist allies in SOS and CCIR are planning two new provocations in Los Angeles, on Saturday, June 21 in downtown Los Angeles and “reclaiming” Leimert Park on Sunday, June 29. Hayes and SOS have been opportunistically focusing on the tragic killing of a Black high school athlete, Jamiel Shaw, by an undocumented gang member, while ignoring the dozen or more killings this year by the LAPD (and the larger number of killings of Black youth by other Black youth, and Mexicanos by other Mexicanos). SOS is quite up front on their message boards that they are seeking to break up Black-Brown unity and provoke and promote Black-Brown infighting. They seek to use Black people as shock troops in their anti-immigrant campaign.

Anti-Racist Action-LA is supporting and helping organize anti-racist white participation in counter-demonstrations against both provocations by Hayes and SOS. Our demands are: Reparations for African People! Legalization for Migrant Workers! End the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and all colonial US military occupation! For more information in how you can get involved, including an upcoming planning meeting on Monday June 9. And follow-up events including anti-racist cultural and educational work such as concerts and film showings, call us at 310-495-0299, or email antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

Liberal nostrums will not do to deal with this wave of white nationalism and its Black reactionary partners. The displacements of gentrification and globalization, the deepening economic crisis of imperialism, are unleashing fascist-type forces looking for scapegoats. White prison gangs like the Aryan Brotherhood and the PEN1 Skins may make common cause with the Mexican Mafia at the same time that anti-immigrant thugs on the streets line up with Black neo-colonial puppets like Ted Hayes. Only a revolutionary internationalist, anti-racist and anti-authoritarian solidarity can confront these shifting alliances and their use by the police and state security forces to serve powerful economic interests. Only that approach can win significant sectors of white working people to challenge the snares of racism, privilege and identification with the oppressor – in alliance with the liberation forces of oppressed and colonized people – to challenge the whole racist power structure and its edifice of exploitation.

**Counter protest against
Save Our State/Ted Hayes
Broadway March to City Hall Rally
(listed as “June 21-22”)
and Leimert Park (Sunday June 29!)
March with ARA and community
allies for Reparations, Legalization
and Decolonization,
Against Racism and War!**

The answer is obvious.

And even though kids in American schools aren’t taught this truth, the fact of the matter is we all live closer to the age of gasoline than the age of the atom. For every item we purchase, from food to coats, from jewelry to DVD’s, bears the cost of transportation in its price, and as the price of gas soars, that price is passed on to the consumer. So fuel exacts a kind of double tax when it comes to grains. Through speculation and transfer to bio fuels, all such grain prices rise. To this is added the price of transport.

The logic of the market leads to mass starvation.

[Source: *Esteve, Gustavo and Madhu Suri Prakash, “From Global to Local: Beyond Neo liberalism to the International of Hope,” in The Globalization Reader, 3d ed. Frank J. Lechner & John Boli, eds., p.455]*

April 19th and 20th Mumia Event Report back from Philly

by Prisoners Of Conscience Committee Minister of Information JR

When the POCC crew reached 6th and Market in Philly on April 19th, where political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal's 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals hearing was heard almost a year earlier, we were greeted by hundreds of protesters occupying all four corners of the intersection. They were chanting "Free Mumia," with signs everywhere. A few weeks earlier, the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals denied Mumia's appeal for a fair trial. This was despite the fact that the prosecutor kicked off 10 potential jurors on the sole basis that they were Black, and the presiding judge was overheard saying, "Im gonna help them fry the nigger", in reference to Abu-Jamal. And this is after the appeal judges refused to even consider evidence pointing to Mumia's innocence, like the confession from Arnold Beverly, who claims that he killed the pig that Mumia is languishing in prison over, and like some recently discovered crime scene photos that explicitly show Philly police tampering with the evidence. That has come to light since the "legal

up, and began to march in the streets, with the final destination being city hall. Once we began, a group of drummers traveling from New York beat on their drums of all sizes as a backdrop to chants like "Back Up, Back Up, We Want Freedom Freedom, All those Dirty Ass Cops, We Don't Need 'em Need 'em!" and "No Justice, No Peace, Until Mumia Abu-Jamal is Released!" There were people of all nationalities and ages, who came from all over the world to be a part of this demonstration. I met an organizer from St. Denice France, who helped to organize for the Mumia street out there in 2006. Pam Africa's daughters Pixie and Rose of the MOVE organization, were keeping their eyes on a number of youngstas while they had smaller ones on their hips. A number of elderly people came out with their walking sticks, to make their voices heard.

As I moved through the crowd, I ran into Shujaa Graham who was exonerated from death row. He is a veteran of the prison movement of the 60's-70's, and one of my teachers, who had traveled from Baltimore to show his support for the "Free Mumia" campaign. Former Black Panther Nana Conway, the wife of political prisoner Eddie Conway, had also come from the same city. A number of other East Coast former Panthers were there to show support for their comrade; Panthers like Reggie Schell, Paulette Peebles, Ashanti Alston, and S.E. Anderson. Naji, a broadcaster on D.C. radio station WPFW was seizing the time like myself, and getting interviews with supporters for future reports; much like what Mumia would've been doing at a rally, had the government not set him up on this bogus trumped up case. Dara, an organizer from D.C. with the Hands Off Assata campaign, was out there helping people to see that the same enemy, the U.S. government, is at work in both of these freedom fighters' cases.

When we reached city hall, the post-rally featured Julia Wright, the daughter of legendary Black writer Richard Wright, who has been involved in the international campaign to "Free Mumia!" for many years, and who spoke eloquently for Mumia's release. Legendary movement attorney Roger Wareham, of the December 12th Movement, was also one of the fiery speakers who stuck in my head throughout the day. Powerhouse Ramona Africa, the sole adult survivor of the 1985 MOVE bombing, explained very simply and plainly what's at stake in the cases of political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal and her family members the Move 9. On April 22nd the women from that case were unjustifiably denied parole after 30 years of being locked up; in a case where evidence points at the pig being killed by friendly fire. This incident, which led to this bogus case is on video for you to judge for yourself. And to add insult to injury, I don't know how in the hell 9 people can be charged with killing one police officer with one bullet. That absurd charge is similar to the murder charges currently being imposed on the SF 8, a case where 8 men were charged in the murder of one pig, with one shot, but that's another story that I will soon write.

Back to the April 19th demo. The biggest highlight of the day for me was seeing a number of individuals from Mumia's family, including two of his daughters and some of his grandchildren, who were out there representing. Goldii, his youngest daughter on the scene, made the hair on my neck stand up with her passionate and emotional message about her Pops, Mumia, and our need to intensify our efforts to free him now.

The next day, an entourage of Cuban rappers including DJ Leydis, Miki Flowz, Las Krudas, Junior Clan, and DJ Compadre hooked up with the Prisoners of Conscience Committee (POCC) to throw an event in the hood, at a Puerto Rican community center, for Mumia. The POCC's Keita hosted along with myself. The event started with a showing of the POCC: Block Report Radio documentary "Audio Rebellion", and was followed up by some words from Mumia's daughter Goldii, who ended her speech with a rap about her father's case entitled "Trap Door."

theater" which they euphemistically called a trial concluded in the early 80's. The Philly protest was just one of the protests held in response to the international call put out by the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu Jamal (ICFFMAJ). People got into the streets to protest the legal lynching that the government is trying to set the stage for.

Political heavyweights were being managed by Pam Africa, the chairwoman of the ICFFMAJ to come back stage to speak at the pre-rally, before the march. Green Party presidential candidate and former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, a longtime supporter of political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal was the first to speak, and was followed by political attorney Lynn Stewart, who is currently fighting to not be a political prisoner herself. After the 30 minute or so pre-rally, the protesters on all of the corners grouped

with the expenses that they incur riding around from event to event representing for their Pops.

Both events were historic, and I know that most of the people who attended will remember these days for a long time. Hopefully this report back will inspire you to get involved in Mumia's case, as well as the cases of others like Assata Shakur, Imam Jamil Al-Amin, the Angola 3, the San Francisco 8, the Move 9, the New York 3, Veronza Bowers, Mongo We Langa, Sekou Odinga, Sundiata Acoli, and Aaron Patterson among millions of others. If you haven't already, check out freemumia.org and prisonradio.org to get up to date info on what's going on in Mumia's case. On prisonradio.org check out the Block Report Radio interview where Chairman Fred Hampton Jr. and I interview Mumia as he responds to the 3rd Circuit decision. You could also find Mumia's weekly radio commentaries there. Also you could hear interviews with Goldii, William Singletary, who was there on the night when Mumia was framed, and others on www.blockreportradio.com. Get involved. Free'Em All!

The Cuban rappers did their thing, and all of them voiced support for Mumia, and some also talked about the cases of political exiles Assata Shakur and Nehanda Abiodun, who are in exile in Cuba currently, and about ending the U.S. blockade against Cuba. Elena, a comrade from the Native Youth Movement in British Columbia, Klanada, voiced solidarity and also talked about the cases of Native political prisoners like Leonard Peltier and others.

After the event was over, the POCC, along with Mumia's family members who were in attendance, and the Cuban rappers had a meeting. The POCC stressed the Code of Culture and the need for artists and cultural workers that support Mumia and political prisoners to concretely get involved in a tangible way, with the work that needs to happen before the people can free them. It was voiced that saying "Free Mumia!" is cool, but we are in dire straits. We need rappers and other cultural workers to stay in contact directly with the campaign, so that they can get up to date information on Mumia and others' plight, as well as to get propaganda out at the concerts and other forums that they are a part of. The Cuban rappers agreed that that is what needs to happen. The night ended when Junior Clan, with tears running down his face, gave all the money made at the event to Mumia's family to help

A TALE OF TWO CITIES: DC AND PHILLY CONFRONT NAZIS

Written by One People's Project

On Saturday, 19 April 2008 one Nazi was beat down in Philly, three in DC. This is A19, the day best remembered as the anniversaries of both Waco and Oklahoma City, the day before nazis commemorate Hitler's birthday. The National Socialist Movement announced a few months ago that they were going to march on DC this day, so folks began to prepare for their arrival. Then came the announcement that a rally for Mumia Abu-Jamal was called for April 26, and we knew that was going to bring out our local Nazis who like to use this case to advance themselves. So we knew we were going to have a busy month. The busy month became a busy day when organizers of the Mumia rally moved it up to April 19 to take advantage of the media attention being paid to the presidential primary. That meant antifa had to divide their time between the two rallies. In Washington, the National Socialist Movement held a march and rally, while in Philadelphia, two bonehead crews joined with the local Fraternal Order of Police to stage a counter-protest to a rally held to support political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Those participating in the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal rally in Philadelphia were more than prepared for the presence of Keystone State "Skinheads" (KSS) and Maryland "Skinheads" (MDS), -- that is, boneheads. Flyers were produced prior to the rally about the nazis planned counter-protest, featuring pictures of individuals expected to show. In the end, there were a paltry thirty participants - not one of them a person of color - in the anti-Mumia counter-protest that took place at the beginning of the march up Market St. The Keystone State "Skinheads" were trying to not let their open racism come out, as they try to appeal to the public as being just a few hard-core, militant conservatives. So the decal they have available saying "Guns don't kill people, dangerous minorities do" had a rather dramatic change when it was time to turn it into a placard that was going to be seen by the general public. They switched "violent criminals" for "dangerous minorities", but with the same pictures of people of color.

According to sources, members of the two bonehead crews left the Vista Ave. home of Keith Carney and Andrew Boyle at approximately 10:30 AM. They were not seen again until they stood with members of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). They were also joined by Erick Weigel of the National Vanguard spinoff group Nationalist Coalition. He is also known as "Erick_K_W" on Stormfront and for getting involved in a physical

altercation with counter-protestors of an immigration rally in Morristown, NJ last summer, They brought large signs which they used to hide their faces from time to time whenever they noticed a camera trained on them. Rally participants, whose numbers overwhelmed the racist crowd, called them out as they marched past, matching up the faces on the flyer with those they saw standing on the curb. After the march passed the counter-protest, everyone went their separate ways. Reportedly, KSS and MDS were expected to go to the home of MDS member Clemie Richard Haught at 1604 Iverness Ave. in Baltimore, Maryland to watch the UFC Championship fight between Matt Serra and Georges St-Pierre. They did manage to suffer at least one casualty. One bonehead wearing a T-shirt promoting Death in June, a band fronted by American Front associate Boyd Rice, reportedly walked through the pro-Mumia crowd prior to the march and was promptly beaten up. There were no arrests. Flyers belonging to KSS were found posted along Market St., but were taken down by antifa before the march. Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal thanked Anti-Racist Action and other anti-fascists for alerting them to the threat of the boneheads in alliance with the FOP.

In Washington simultaneously, fireworks began even before the National Socialist Movement (NSM) even arrived, which itself didn't even happen until two and a half hours before their expected time. Reportedly, three supporters of the NSM were seen at the Washington Monument and was set upon by antifa and tourists. While the supporters took some substantial hits, police arrested three antifa. Those who were not arrested continued to follow the supporters as they tried to get away. On Saturday April 19, roughly 28 members of the National Socialist Movement marched in Washington DC. They were countered by many more anti-fascists who forced them to march under heavy police guard while being pelted with water balloons, projectiles, and a chorus of boos.

The day started at 11:30pm, when a group of anti-fascists gathered to await the coming neo-Nazi march. The NSM announced their rally for noon, but were a no show. Scouts for the anti-fascists reported sightings of white supremacists in the area who were also awaiting the NSM. The group decided to march to the Washington Monument, where sightings had been reported. After a

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Sean Bell's Second Slaying

column written 4/25/08 and copyright (c) 2008 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

It was a classic 'Only in America' moment.

The bench trial of three killer cops in New York City, charged with firing some 50 shots into a car, killing one man, Sean Bell, and wounding two others (all unarmed).

The case rushed across America, spreading outrage in each city.

Initially, the cops moved to have the trial transferred to a site upstate, to the rural, northern tiers. This motion denied, they opted for a bench trial (or trial by a single judge), not trusting their fates to a so-called jury of "citizens" they are sworn to serve and protect. Time, it seems, has proven that they made the right decision -- for, predictably, the judge acquitted them of all charges, arguing that the witnesses gave conflicting testimony.

By so doing, the court essentially ruled that Bell's killing was justified; no crime was committed.

The defense utilized the "bad company" argument: that Bell was shot and killed because he was among "the wrong crowd."

That such an argument swayed Supreme Court justice Arthur Cooperman is a measure of how devalued Black life is, and how easy Black men are to demonize and disparage. (In



New York state, unlike most other states, the trial court is termed the Supreme Court, and the state's highest court is their Court of Appeals.)

If none of the cops knew the men, what does it matter what their backgrounds were? They could've been lawyers, basketball stars, or -- cops.

That they were Black men -- even unarmed Black men -- was deemed sufficient to unload on them, because in America, their color was crime enough. So, 22 year old Sean Bell joins Amadou Diallo, and others guilty of the capital offense of WWB-Walking While Black. And while millions of Black and white Americans thrill at political illusions of "post-racialism", Sean Bell's case proves how deeply deadly race can still be.

Even rumors of a weapon were enough to unleash 50 shots -- or should we say "alleged rumors", for there were no guns found in Bell's car. In the past, wallets, candy bars, keys, and packs of cigarettes were deemed sufficient to provoke such malicious responses.

Now, nothing is required.

Sean Bell was shot to death, and his friends, Joseph Guzman and Trent Benerfield were seriously wounded. Shot and killed for being 'the wrong crowd.'



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few minutes of marching and milling around the area, 3 neo-Nazis were sighted. The crowd surrounded them and attacked them. After some time of this occurring the police intervened, surrounding the racists to escort them out of the park. Anti-fascists followed, and this is when the DC Park Police claim that a member of the anti-fascist crowd pepper sprayed an officer and the racists.

According to an account by a member of ARA, "The police started shoving and clubbing people, arresting anyone in sight that they could get their hands on. They eventually arrested 6 people on charges including Assault on a Police Officer and Possession of a Prohibited Weapon. ... In the end 6 antifascists spent 3 days in jail, 36 hours of which were in 24-hour lockdown in 5 x 8 cells approaching 90 degrees. Five of them are facing multiple counts of assaulting police officers and possession of weapons. The sixth was released with no charges."

At approximately 2:30 PM, the NSM and their supporters, which included Hal Turner who was scheduled to speak and his friend Moreland Huber, who writes under the pen name "Tripp Hendersen", arrived in a blue prison bus at 15th and Constitution Ave. According to WSQT Guerrilla Radio, they marched to the Capitol under heavy police protection by almost 1000 cops, but closely followed by the significantly larger group of antifa and others who joined in from the street. "At the Capitol, protesters got close enough to distract many of them from the speakers but not into decent projectile range," the WSQT report published on DC Indymedia read. "The march was under a barrage of insults against racist scumbags, but the only thrown projectile I can verify is one well-earned water balloon." Photographer David Holloway, an associate of white supremacist Billy Roper that was a part of a group of photographers for the White House, was seen at the rally, but disappeared soon after.

Antifa in both cities came from as far out as the Midwest to participate in the rallies. Numerous Anti-Racist Action chapters represented as well as the chapters of Food Not Bombs and Northeastern Federation of Anarchist-Communists from Syracuse, NY. Supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal were on hand to augment the antifa presence there while tourists visiting Washington joined antifa in haranguing the NSM. Plans are being made for some activists to attend the April 25 court appearance of KSS members who are on trial on attempted murder and weapons charges stemming from the Memorial Day attack on one of their own, as well as the May 24 anti-immigration rally in Lakewood, NJ, which is expected to attract neo-Nazis, particularly those who are members of the Nationalist Coalition.

Books to Prisoners Correction

Dear Editor, I just got the March-April 2008 edition of *Turning the Tide*. It's normally above average with lots of prison info and interviews. Unfortunately this edition included a horribly inaccurate listing of prison book programs. The list is just a collection of addresses and doesn't include a program's coverage area or details. The real kicker is it directs prisoners to write several of the listed program's specific program members by name. So you may have generated a ton of requests from states that programs don't even cover, directed at a specific volunteer who doesn't even work with the project anymore.

Steve, Books 4 Prisoners Crew

Editor replies:

Steve is correct that most or all book to prisoner projects pick a specific state or locale to serve, and we didn't include that info. Sorry for the errors and problems we may have caused. We took the list off an on-line prisoner resource listing without checking it. We apologize to the programs, and to any prisoner readers who may have been misled. Here are two specific correction we got: **PRISON BOOK PROJECT** c/o Food for Thought Books P.O. Box 396 Amherst, MA 01004 (413) 584-8975 ext. 208 www.prisonbooks.org Serves prisoners in New England states and Texas only. Request books by topics of interest, not title. No mailing list or catalog. **WISCONSIN BOOKS TO PRISONERS**, 1019 Williamson St #B, Madison WI 53703 Free books to WI prisoners only

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 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, homophobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people.

WE INTEND TO WIN!

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Algerian Refugee in Canada Sanctuary Launches Rap Album

by Stefan Christoff

Abdelkader Belaoui, an Algerian refugee living in sanctuary for more than two years at St-Gabriel's Church in Pointe St-Charles, is launching a hip-hop album. After a winter-long collaboration with the Muslim-American rapper 23 (Tu-Three) - who recently transplanted to Montreal - the duo has produced a unique rap album, born within the walls of sanctuary and from a desire to fight for a more just refugee determination process in Canada.

Over two years ago, in defiance of a deportation order from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Belaoui took sanctuary. Since, he has played an active role in the campaign for the government to act on his case while developing musical skills on the side. In the two years he's been living within the walls at St-Gabriel's Church, Belaoui has learned to play flute and piano and is now conveying his struggle through hip-hop. "This is the first time I have made music in my life, let's be honest," explains Belaoui. "Many people would think that while in sanctuary I am simply hiding. However, throughout this time I have been working hard on my music, singing in sanctuary beside my bed."

Belaoui, backed by many community organizations and social justice groups, has been fighting a very public battle with Immigration Canada. It's not the only battle he's faced in this lifetime. In 1996, Belaoui escaped a violent civil conflict in Algeria, which took an estimated 100,000 civilian lives, an escape that began his journey and struggles as a refugee. He's also blind. Despite his claims, Citizenship and Immigration Canada rejected Belaoui's refugee application, issuing a deportation order that has led to the longest standing sanctuary case in Canada, stretching out now for over 850 days.

"In creating the album, Abdelkader's personality and struggle is expressed through the music, a cultural expression surrounding the themes of personal freedom and destiny and their relation to borders and global migration," explains hip-hop artist 23, Belaoui's collaborator. "After our first session it was clear that we were really starting to build on something, that there was a blessing for this project to work."

Themes on the album range from local issues relating to anti-poverty and housing struggles in Pointe St-Charles

in Montreal's southwest, where St-Gabriel's Church is located, to issues of an international scope such as the realities faced by refugees in a time of war. "One track is called Borders, a piece that highlights the privilege that a limited number of people and multinational corporations have to cross international borders freely," says 23. "In today's age of security and surveillance we are faced with increasing oppression. Twenty years ago many people celebrated the fall of the Berlin Wall; however, today we are seeing more and more walls going up throughout the world, from the U.S.-Mexico border to Israel's apartheid wall in Palestine."

Today, the official position of the Canadian government is that Belaoui is not allowed to remain within Canada's borders, and a deportation order still stands.

<http://hour.ca/news/news.aspx?iIDArticle=14551>
<http://www.soutienpourkader.net>

View a performance from 23 featuring Abdelkader Belaoui:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGtC36LlSk>.

Direct Action Against the War, May 4th, Kent, Ohio

by N. Robinson, Kent ARA

On Sunday May 4 in Kent OH a group of over 200 students marched to the West Main St. Bridge. They refused to disperse on police orders and held the location for nearly two hours. The demonstrators rallied, addressing each other on the war and the struggle for justice and equality at home and abroad. They played drums, danced and conversed. The Internationale was sung in the style of Tom Waits. Banners were hung on the bridge, including an upside down American flag that read "There is no flag large enough to cover the shame of killing innocent people." Other banners read "U.S. Out of Ohio" with a pink and black star, "Don't make us start another war to end this one" with a red circle "A", "Peace", "Imagine", and similar slogans were also presented. This action was the culmination of a weekend of anti-war events organized by local groups to run parallel to the "official" May 4th commemorations and liberal oriented anti-war activities (marking the anniversary of the massacre of anti-war protestors by the National Guard during the Vietnam era).

On Saturday, May 3rd, Kent Anti-Racist Action held a symposium against sexism and war. The symposium was well attended. There were workshops on supporting survivors of sexual assault and sexual assault prevention. The 2008 documentary "Guerilla Girls of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) was also shown to address the fact that despite the U.S. myth of liberating women in the Middle East, there is already entrenched feminist tradition and practice. The Women's Liberation Collective presented a history of U.S. feminism. The discussions of this history addressed its failures and successes around issues of skin color and class, as well as supporting the rights of LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer) people.

Yvette Coil of KSAWC, Iraq Veterans Against the War, and Military Families Speak out, and her friend Wendy Lee, spoke about the strains war has placed on returning soldiers and their families. They are both wives of soldiers who have served in Iraq and suffer from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). Coil's husband, who served in the "first" Gulf War, returned in many ways a changed man. His PTSD made family life very hard. Coil spoke about the difficulties he has encountered as a husband and father and how that also affected her ability to function as a wife and mother. She said that the partner of someone with PTSD can end up suffering with the disorder as well. Lee, whose husband is a state trooper, served in the current campaign in Iraq. He volunteered for deployment after the September 11th attacks. She described him as a straight arrow who believed the occupation forces ought to bring stability, and in a very by the book way, act in the interest of the Iraqi people and the American Government. What he found was a self interested and opportunistic pecking order in the ranks. He acted as a "whistle blower" several times writing up other officers for improprieties of command. His complaints were ignored. His "comrades" would soon conspire against him. Several times he was intentionally abandoned in hostile territory with only his Iraqi interpreter, who became one of the few people he could trust. Lee began to receive letters from her husband in which he feared

for his life, believing his antagonists were conspiring to have him killed. Originally a pro-war wife, she began demonstrating on her own for her husband's safe return. As a result, she was met with threats and harassment. Their presentation was heartfelt and emotional, both women occasionally coming near tears as they described their situation and the treatment they've received from the armed services. After their presentation many approached them to give hugs and warm wishes.

That night a *consulta* was held among the various groups who would be involved in the May 4th action. The meeting was followed by an Anti-Racist Action benefit show that featured many popular regional hip-hop and punk groups. Sunday's march left the "official" May 4th commemoration ceremony and went 1st to the parking lot where four Kent State students were massacred by the Ohio National Guard on May 4th 1970. A stop was made at the ROTC building. The outside of the building was covered by demonstrators with hundreds of peace signs. The march proceeded to downtown Kent along the officially sanctioned parade route on the sidewalk. Upon reaching the West Main Street bridge, the protesters poured into the street, stepped around traffic and proceeded onto the bridge, occupying the right hand lane only as there was no traffic. After all traffic was allowed to clear, the protesters filled the center of the bridge. At this point squad cars closed bridge access on both ends. The police, taken completely off guard, attempted to disperse the protesters. Immediately a number of protesters sat down in the middle of the road. No one else budged. Suddenly, as chants of "Whose streets? Our streets!" reached a fever pitch, the police recognized a shift in the attitude of the crowd and left, observing from a distant perimeter. For nearly two hours the bridge was peacefully held.



Yvette Coil, injured by Kent cops. -photo by Greg

Another march, organized by liberal forces and billed as an anti-war themed funerary procession for Bill Schultz, a Kent city councilman who had been a friend of the anti-war movement, approached the bridge. It was supposed to cross the bridge and plant a tree of peace on the other side. Protesters agreed to let the procession pass but without surrendering the position on the bridge. In the procession was a jazz band being pulled on a trailer. When the procession reached the center of the bridge

it halted. The two demonstrations merged for about 30 minutes while the jazz band played a quick set. A half-hour after the procession left to plant the tree, the police re-opened the bridge and directed traffic on to it despite our presence. 4 protesters sat down in the middle of the bridge. They were: Yvette Coil, who had spoke at Kent ARA's symposium; Aaron Brooks, another KSAWC member, local musician, and lifelong resident of the Kent area; Bill Arthrelle, a Kent State alumnus who attended at the time of the massacre, and now teaches in history in the Cleveland public schools; and Sable, a Kent State student and member of the Women's Liberation Collective. They were summarily arrested while in the act of non-violent civil disobedience. After the arrests, about 70 people marched to the Kent police station in solidarity. Outside, their names were chanted so they would know their comrades were there supporting them. In under two hours, nearly \$2,000 was raised to bail everyone out. The funds came from the pockets of protesters and residents. Local residential areas, bars, and even cars at red lights were solicited for funds, and the community generously expressed its solidarity. Among those who gave was a uniformed Army National Guardsman who donated the only dollar he had on his person to the bail fund. He told the protesters that they were "doing the right thing" and that the "war needed to end." When Yvette Coil was released, her arm was in a sling and she had to be taken to the hospital for treatment.

An unpublished joint statement from KSAWC, Kent ARA, Women's Liberation Collective, and Portage Peace sent to the local paper stated: "May 4th was chosen as the date of this action because, as freedom loving people, we feel that past crimes of government can not be ignored, lest they repeat themselves. We identify a common cause between ourselves and those who stood up to guns with passion and ideas in 1970 at Kent and Jackson State. Every care was taken by the demonstrators to obstruct traffic as little as possible. Alternate routes, of which many of you are familiar, are not difficult to take. We do not pretend that the day was without inconveniences. It is clear, however, that the war makers and war profiteers will not listen to talk alone. They control the largest media outlets, and this circumstance demands drastic action to communicate to the other people. The war machine continues untold slaughter of Americans, Iraqis, and Afghans, and is bankrupting the economies of all three countries. It depletes the world's resources with its taxing demand for fuel. The war economy, while once an economic stimulant is now the primary source of inflation. These problems are beyond inconvenient."

The 4 arrested activists, now known locally as the "Main St. Bridge 4" are still trying to procure affordable and competent legal representation. X-rays revealed that Yvette Coil's arm has a lacerated nerve. She has still not regained feeling in her forearm nearly 3 weeks later. Kent State Anti-War Committee and Kent ARA are appealing for funds to make sure that they are adequately defended. Checks can be made out and sent to: Kent State Anti-War Committee, CSI box #16, Kent, OH 44242. Credit card donations can be made online at:

Myspace.com/kentstateantiwarcommittee or
Myspace.com/kentara

Inequality of Life Policing and the Butt End of the City Budget

By Peggy Lee Kennedy

If you follow the news, you know that Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa came out very strong in favor of “Public Safety” in the 2008-2009 budget, which includes increasing the LAPD by 1000 cops and decreasing other needed services. Unfortunately, nested within this Public Safety budget is a police budget of over 1.3 billion dollars (around one third of the City’s total budget). This is using our so-called scarce city resources to criminalize the poor and un-housed people – resources that could be used for real solutions to homelessness or the affordable housing crisis. Villaraigosa’s strategy involves something called “Quality of Life Policing,” a policy that evolved partially out of a right-wing theory of zero tolerance policing called “Broken Windows” (Atlantic Monthly 1982, by James Q Wilson and George Kelling).

It was made popular in New York in the 1990’s by William Bratton, now Chief of the Los Angeles Police Department. The basic theory is that police should address smaller offenses of “disorder,” such as panhandling or loitering, and then violent crime will diminish. This Zero Tolerance/Quality of Life policing policy is a form of proactive law enforcement that focuses on a business-like “bottom line” of reducing crime and it is well known for violating civil rights.

In addition, our law-makers are using “Quality of Life,” as a catch-all name for a series of city ordinances, including anti-vagrant laws that make it a crime to live in a vehicle or sleep in a park even though these acts may be unavoidable. What is done through necessity due to poverty, lack of social services, an extreme shortage of affordable housing, or other social-economic reasons is now a crime. These Quality of Life laws are specifically used to remove poor people, youth of color, people viewed as inferior, vehicular-housed people, or street people from a neighborhood, and ultimately LA as a whole. New anti-vagrant Quality of Life laws in Los Angeles make oversized camper vehicles illegal to park on city streets between 2 and 6AM and create Overnight [Permit] Parking Districts for certain housed people in these districts. Older laws used as anti-vagrant Quality of Life laws say that no vehicle should be parked on a city street for more than 72-hours, but is used to target only certain vehicles or certain people. One anti-poor Quality of Life law is the law that makes it a crime to live in a converted garage or “granny shack.” Examples of anti-youth Quality of Life law are curfew and truancy laws used to target youth of color or youth viewed as a “nuisance.”

Quality of Life Policing and Quality of Life Laws are especially popular in neighborhoods experiencing gentrification - like Venice, downtown Los Angeles, Echo Park or Boyle Heights. This form of policing, law making, and law application distinctively does not protect or serve the people who most need to have a better quality of life. They do exactly the opposite.

This form of policing and these laws should be re-named “Inequality of Life.”

Inequality of Life Policing uses considerable Police resources dedicated to following, tracking, and observing poor people; giving tickets to people who cannot pay the fines, who cannot easily make it to court, or who have done no other crime except to be poor, brown, or live without traditional housing. For many un-housed street people, tickets turn into warrants and many get arrested – often in sweeps, which is another elaborate use of police resources and horrible for the people being arrested. Arrested street people regularly lose everything when their possessions are thrown away (original birth certificates, family pictures, medication, section 8 vouchers). They plead “no contest” instead of “not guilty” to get off with time served, due to lack of legal representation and a lack of knowledge of their rights (National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH), 2002). They end up with a criminal record, probation, and stay-away orders for areas that have social services – like the Venice Family Clinic and Saint Joseph’s Bread and Roses Café on Rose Ave. in Venice or Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles.

It is a fact that this kind of intensive small offense ticketing, arresting, and incarcerating of un-housed street people costs more than housing them. The Safer City Initiative (SCI), which evolved in Los Angeles using the consulting assistance of the above-mentioned George Kelling, added 50 LAPD officers in Skid Row - an area of only .85 square miles. The estimated cost of just the 50-officer SCI Task Force in Skid Row is about \$6 million per year. The City budgeted \$5.7 million out of the same General Fund for homeless shelter and services for the entire City. (See *Policing Our Way Out of Homelessness?* September 2007, Professor Gary Blasi, UCLA School of Law.)

Our elected officials know this, but do not appear to care. They do nothing to stop the on-going propaganda campaign of fear that helps to justify these laws (sound familiar?). In fact, they even cater to the civilian hate

mongers [who call them over and over] by creating more Inequality of Life laws. Meanwhile we, the tax payers, are all paying for a system that does not work. Inequality of Life Policing simply does not work to solve homelessness. It violates people’s civil rights and can lead to costly litigation. It’s helping erode Constitutional and human rights. Bottom line, it’s expensive. Also, when an un-housed person has a criminal record, it increases the barriers to finding housing and shelter. Section 8 housing applications, including the section 8 buildings in Venice owned by Coldwater Management, require a credit check and a background check. If a person has a bankruptcy, a prior eviction, or a misdemeanor – they can pretty much forget it.

Now where are people supposed to go when there is no affordable housing or proper shelter system, when these laws are citywide and they have been given a criminal record using Inequality of Life Policing? Should they live in jail or just die? As a matter of fact, they do. People are dying homeless on our streets more often than we know, because it is not publicized. Increasingly poor people are being housed in jails and prisons while we are paying to build more. It is a vicious cycle of a growing fascist police state that the workers are funding - and the only true beneficiaries of this system are the big corporations and greedy land developers. Many believe that “relocation camps” for the homeless on the model of the Ontario encampment are in the offing for L.A.

Except some of us do not want to live in a corporate fascist police state.

Still, so many people do not recognize all the signs that say “No Poor People Allowed” as being part of a fascist state. Maybe the chem. trails really are turning us all into mindless robots controlled by the state. Or maybe we all just need to turn off the TV more, care for each other more, chant more, and find peace within. And there is value in holding hands and singing “We Shall Overcome,” but I do believe people have to struggle to be aware of and resist the petty fear and intolerance we are being conditioned with. Lets help each other to remember that all human beings deserve the basic rights of healthy food, decent shelter, and freedom of movement. Write, call, tell the City Council, the Mayor, and everyone else to oppose Inequality of Life laws and policing. Basic rights should not just belong to the chosen few or the high-class criminals who can afford a good legal defense. That is why we call it Human Rights - not Rights for the Few who have property, power, and privilege.

American History, Black History and the “Right to Bear Arms”

A Black Agenda Radio commentary by Bruce Dixon www.blackagenda.com

“America’s built, we understand, by stolen labor on stolen land” -- Brother D and Collective Effort, 1980

The dominant trend among legal scholars, and on the current Supreme Court is that we are bound by the original intent of the Constitution’s authors. Here’s what the second amendment to the Constitution says:

“A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the People to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

Clearly its authors aimed to guarantee the right to a gun for every free white man in their new country. What’s no longer evident 230 years later, is why. The answer sheds useful light on the historical and current politics and self-image of our nation.

Colonial America and the early US was a very unequal place. All the good, cleared, level agricultural land with easy access to transport was owned by a very few, very wealthy white men. Many poor whites were brought over as indentured servants, but having completed their periods of forced labor, allowing them to hang around the towns and cities, landless and unemployed, was dangerous to the social order. So they were given guns and credit, and sent inland to make their own fortunes, encroaching upon the orchards, farms and hunting grounds of Native Americans, who had little or no access to firearms. The law, of course, did not penalize white men who robbed, raped or killed Indians. At regular intervals, colonial governors and local US officials would muster the free armed white men as militia, and dispatch them in murderous punitive raids to make the frontier safer for settlers and land speculators. “The principal activities of the Founding Fathers’ ‘well regulated militia’

were Indian killing, land stealing, slave patrolling and the enforcement of domestic apartheid.”

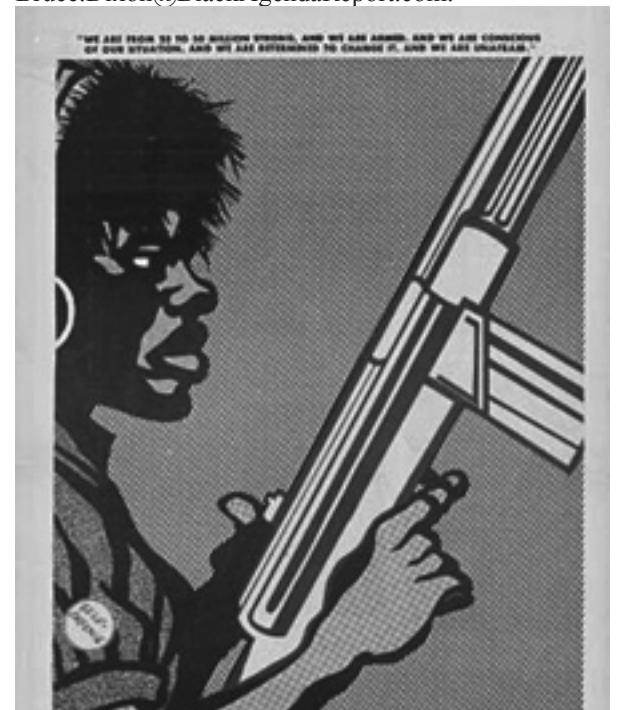
Slavery remained legal in New England, New York and the mid-Atlantic region till well into the 1800s, and the movements of free blacks and Indians were severely restricted for decades afterward. So colonial and early American militia also prowled the roads and highways demanding the passes of all non-whites, to ensure the enslaved were not escaping or aiding those who were, and that free blacks were not plotting rebellion or traveling for unapproved reasons.

Historically then, the principal activities of the Founding Fathers’ “well regulated militia” were Indian killing, land stealing, slave patrolling and the enforcement of domestic apartheid, all of these, as the Constitutional language declares “being necessary to the security of a free state.” A ‘free’ state whose fundamental building blocks were the genocide of Native Americans, and the enslavement of Africans.

The Constitutional sanction of universally armed white men against blacks and Indians is at the origin of what has come to be known as America’s “gun culture.” This neatly explains why that culture remains most deeply rooted in white, rural and small-town America long after the end of slavery and the close of the frontier. With the genocide of Native Americans accomplished and slavery gone, America’s gun culture wrapped itself in new clothing, in self-justifying mythology that construes the Second Amendment as arming the citizenry as final bulwark of freedom against tyranny, invasion or crime. Embracing this fake history of the Second Amendments

warps legal scholarship and public debate in clouds of willful ignorance, encouraging us to believe this is a nation founded on just and egalitarian principles rather than one built with stolen labor on stolen land.

Maybe this is how we can tell that we are finally so over all that nasty genocide and racism stuff. We’ve chosen to simply write it out of our history. For *Black Agenda Radio*, I’m Bruce Dixon. Bruce.Dixon@BlackAgendaReport.com.



An image from “The Black Panther” newspaper by Minister of Culture Emory Douglas

Defend the Black Rider Three

By Black Riders Three Defense Committee

Are you aware that the LAPD and DA's office are currently prosecuting a major political conspiracy case in the Los Angeles Criminal Courts building? Did you know that three young Black revolutionary activists, proponents of gang truces and opponents of police abuse, are being held in L.A. on over a million dollars bond right now? Have you seen any reports about the leader of the Black Riders Liberation Party, Wolverine Shakur, also known as General T.A.C.O., (Taking All Capitalists Out), who is being held on a "keep away" order in the "high power" solitary confinement area of the Twin Towers jail, shackled and manacled with his hands behind his back and unable to stand up straight when being taken to see visitors?

Despite the oppressively high security, disproportionate bails, and the wild, unsubstantiated allegations -- without filing any such criminal charges, the D.A. and LAPD claim to have 'information' that the Black Riders were planning to shoot up L.A. police divisions -- neither D.A. Cooley nor Police Chief Bratton has said a word to the press about the proceedings or about the coordinated raids in northern and southern California by which the defendants were arrested.

On Friday, April 25, the Black Rider Three -- General T.A.C.O., BRLP second in command Aryana Shakur, who has been separated from her son since a massive raid by the LAPD, FBI, and San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies last summer, and Comrade Stress -- were in court for a hearing on discovery motions to uncover the role of the federal government in these indictments. Federal agents were apparently involved in the August raid in San Bernardino, which included armored personnel carriers, a battering ram, and the sealing off of four square blocks around a home housing a number of the Riders. Their next court appearance is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28 at 9:00 AM in Division 131 on the 15th floor of the downtown Criminal Courts building.

Supporters will be holding a press conference and rally at 12:00 noon that day outside the Criminal Courts building, 210 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 to denounce the illegitimate set-up charges and repression against the Black Rider 3 and the BRLP.

They are challenging the media to cover this case and investigate the role of LAPD and federal agents in a politically-motivated counter-insurgency prosecution. Party supporters believe that the prosecutorial attack on their leaders was carried out after the raids last summer failed to produce the armed confrontation authorities were trying to provoke in attempt to assassinate Party members, similar to the COINTELPRO attacks on the Black Panther Party a generation ago. The demands being raised are to free the Black Rider Three and all political prisoners. The courthouse rally will be followed on Saturday, June 14 by a noon community rally in Leimert Park. Later in June and July, events are planned with Fred Hampton Jr. of the POCC, a concert with Immortal Technique, and a program with MalikShabazz of the New Black Panther Party.

In hearings last month, the judge threw out the police and prosecution effort to get a gang enhancement added to the charges against the Three. In earlier testimony in support of the gang enhancement, a police witness testified that the Black Riders has no gang insignia or signs, claimed no gang territory and identified themselves as proud Africans. He admitted that the Black Riders resembled the Black Panther Party. This exposes the political nature of this prosecution, according to the Party. The BRLP has been involved in several major campaigns, building street truces between and among sets of the Crips and Bloods (from whose ranks many of the Party's members have come), opposing police abuse of power, and struggling for Black-Brown unity. Since the recent series of raids and arrests, noted Nadia Shakur, Chief of Staff of the BRLP, the LAPD killed a dozen people in as many weeks, internecine violence among sets has increased on the streets, and new tensions have been fomented between Black and Brown communities. After losing the gang enhancement, the DA piled on additional charges against T.A.C.O.'s co-defendants of "aiding and abetting" him.

A short quote from his Black Manifesto 2000, summing up lessons of the 1992 LA rebellion, makes clear why the leader of the BRLP is in the state's crosshairs: "This peace treaty was agreed upon only two days before the

L.A. uprising and eventually ushered in a temporary truce between all tribes in southern California. But it only lasted a few weeks because the f*cking pigs sabotaged it by sending government spies in the Black community to cause tension and tribal warfare after the rebellion ... this small sign of unity has been put under siege because the fascist rulers understand that the Watts truce will eventually spark something a thousand times more productive - armed revolution!

"For three whole days the people took over one of the biggest cities in Amerika and the action was completely unorganized. Imagine what would happen if we were fully organized. President Bush had just defeated Iraq in another imperialistic war and he had to make a mad dash and call home the troops to help reestablish national security during the biggest uprising in U.S. history. It was started and carried by the notorious Bloods and Crips-the urban Black lumpenproletariat.

"All of white Amerika stood up and took notice when we united and rebelled against the fascist state. ... The fear of both Blacks and revolution is imbedded at the core of white racist psychology. In the early 1970's the oppressor actively encourage the growth of Bloods and Crips by smuggling crack cocaine and military weapons to the tribes in the Black neocolony. A few of the main reasons why the ruling elite and their hired gun-Slingers manipulated us into intensifying our own genocide was to create the prison-industrial-complex to control the most rebellious people simultaneously raking in profits for a rapidly expanding capitalist global economy. ... The neocolonial repressive measures launched against the Black community in the last thirty years is not a sign of the white power structure security but a glaring manifestation of its insecurity. Total repression and genocide are not possible if we organize ourselves for survival first-if we first construct the commune, a sense of community, a common interest of class. The Black commune is the vehicle for the ultimate drive by against the fascist state!"

For more information, contact Nadia Shakur, 323-872-2864, blackriderslp@yahoo.com BRLP, PO Box 8297, L.A. CA 90008

Another Puerto Rican Independentista Subpoenaed to Grand Jury

by Panama Alba

We received information from Dr. Michael Gonzalez Cruz of the Mesa de Solidaridad de Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, via National Hero Rafael Cancel Miranda, that Eliot Monteverde Torres was subpoenaed on May 13 to a US federal grand jury in Brooklyn, NY for May 23, 2008. Historically, these grand jury witch-hunts have been used to try to intimidate, criminalize or incarcerate independentistas.

The FBI searched and served a Grand Jury subpoena on the compañero attorney and educator Elliot Monteverde Torres. The subpoena orders the activist to appear in the federal court of New York on May 23, 2008. Elliot lives with his wife and daughter in Texas. He was a student leader in the U.S. and a distinguished leader of the movement in solidarity with Vieques in New York.

It's important to support all the compañeros harassed by the FBI in Puerto Rico and the U.S. We hope to coordinate our support for the compañeros. In the face of repression, Unity and Struggle!

For more information, contact panamaalba2@yahoo.com, [or in Los Angeles, Lawrence Reyes of the Puerto Rican Alliance, alianzapr@hotmail.com—*Editor*.]

Hawaii Needs You

An open letter to the US left from the Hawaiian sovereignty movement

by Ikaika Hussey, convenor, *Movement for Aloha No ka Aina (MANA)*, Terrilee Keko'olani, *Ohana Koa/Nuclear-Free and Independent Pacific*; Noelani Goodyear-Kaopua, assistant professor of political science, *University of Hawaii, Manoa*, Jon Osorio, director, *Center for Hawaiian Studies, University of Hawaii, Manoa*; Kekuni Blaisdell, convenor, *Ka Pakaukau*, Andre Perez and Keli "Skippy" Ioane, *Hui Pu*, Kai'opua Fyfe, *Koani Foundation*

The confluence of two forces- military expansion in Hawai'i and Congressional legislation that will stymie the Kanaka Maoli [Native Hawaiian] sovereignty movement--will expand and consolidate the use of HI for US empire. We call on the US left to join our movement opposing these threats and add our quest for independence as a plank of the strategy for a nonimperialist America. If you support peace and justice for the US and the world, support demilitarization and independence for Hawai'i.

Since 1893, the United States has malformed Hawai'i into the command and control center for US imperialism in Oceania and Asia. From the hills of the Ewa district of O'ahu, the US Pacific Command--the largest of the unified military commands--directs troops and hardware throughout literally half the planet. Since the late nineteenth century, the US military has multiplied in our islands, taking 150,000 acres for its use, including one-quarter of the metropolitan island of O'ahu. Moreover, the National Security Administration is building a new surveillance facility nearby, not far from where urban assault brigades, called Strykers, will train for deployment throughout the world. The US Navy is also increasing training over the entire archipelago, including populated areas and the fragile northwestern whale sanctuary. This militarized occupation has a long history. Ke Awalau o Pu'uloa--known now as Pearl Harbor--became one of the very first overseas bases, along with Guantánamo, around the time of the Spanish-American War. We still hold much in common with prerevolution Cuba--a sugar plantation economy and status as the

playground for the rich of North America.

We've suffered the effects of being the pawn for US wars on the world. Our family members languish from strange diseases brought by military toxins in our water and soil. Our economy is a foreign-run modern plantation serving multinational shareholders and decorated generals. We salute a foreign flag, and the education system instructs us to yearn for a distant continent called the Mainland. Tourists imbibe sunny Waikiki, while beaches in native-inhabited regions are littered with chemical munitions.

But amid our suffering, we have survived. Our tenacity and resilience have historical roots: in 1897, 95 percent of the Kanaka Maoli population signed petitions that helped to defeat a treaty to forcibly annex Hawai'i to the US.

The last 40 years have seen remarkable change for our people, through the advancement of a grassroots struggle against the political occupation and mental colonization of our homeland. We have been successful in several campaigns: in stopping the bombing of Kaho'olawe Island and Makua Valley, in revitalizing the Hawaiian language and culture in our schools and families, in returning to our indigenous spiritual practices and in making Hawaiian sovereignty a dinner-table topic and a possibility. These hard-fought wins are successes in the movement for self-determination and also a threat to America's use of Hawai'i as the purveyor of its empire.

It is against this backdrop that the Akaka bill (the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act) is being

discussed in the halls of Congress, promoted by Hawai'i's corporate and political elite as a vehicle for racial justice. Yet the bill would turn back one of the most important victories of the last four decades--the rise of Hawaiian self-determination, including independence, as a political possibility--replacing it with the extinguishment of our historic claims to land and sovereignty.

Our conundrum puts us squarely in opposition to the middle ground of American politics, which has arrived at a consensus that Hawai'i will remain a military colony of the United States. Democratic Senator Inouye is a major purveyor of pork barrel spending for military appropriations and defense contractors. All three presidential contenders have signaled their support for the Akaka bill. And while the far right of the Republican Party opposes the Akaka bill, both major parties have no quarrel over the continuance of the empire's use of our homeland.

In light of this American consensus on Hawai'i, we turn to our nearest political allies, US progressive movements, and seek your solidarity for our independence because it is congruent and essential to your hope for a better world. Please join us in opposing the Akaka bill and the militarization of Hawai'i, and please support Hawai'i's independence as part of your vision for a more humane United States and a more just world.

For more information on Hawai'ian sovereignty, check: **Hawaii Nation Info <info@hawaii-nation.org>**

The possibility in his son's blue eyes

by Elizabeth K. Gordon

I was tethered to the WACAN table at the 9th Annual White Privilege Conference when a gust of a rap-poem blew through the open doors of the Sheraton Hotel's auditorium and tore me loose. It was Oakland Hip Hop Artist Ariel Luckey doing his first ever performance of "ID Check." Standing in the back of a packed chandelier-lit hall, I watched a slim twenty-something white man pace the stage, flinging a list, a litany of "I am's"

*I am a blue-eyed devil, peckawood and country cracker
Red neck, white trash and urban wannabe rapper
I am the man who's got the God complex
Pimping privilege from class, skin color and sex
I am the president, the pope and the cop on your block
I'm the banker buying stock in selling bullets and glocks*

It was white male privilege disrobing and putting on a newer, simpler outfit: honesty, responsibility, and an eyes-open-to-history pride.

*I am also Myles Horton, Anne Braden and John Brown
I'm a Quaker Abolitionist and the Weather Underground
I am Paul Kivel, I am Tim Wise
I am the possibility in my son's blue eyes*

It was a gust and a breath of fresh air. It made me want to hug him (which I did). And interview him, which I did too, after enjoying more of his work on U-Tube and My Space.

As an outsider in a black-dominated field, Ariel Luckey's whiteness is in his face in a way most white folks never experience. Some white rappers deal with that predictably, as in these lines from underground rapper Brother Ali,

"They ask me if I'm black or white, I'm neither --
Race is a made up thing, I don't believe in it."

Neither? In our dreams, maybe. Either is the path Ariel Luckey has chosen, back to the immigrant roots, as his in-progress solo theatre piece 'Free Land' puts it, "deep within the blood-stained soil of American history." Speaking to me from his California home, Luckey said, "I'm using Hip Hop to articulate a perspective or experience of privilege... I'm an anomaly, because I go where most whites don't go." There is, Luckey explained, a void. And he feels a responsibility to fill it. To quote again from 'Free Land,' which explores the legacy of white privilege and Native American genocide in the West:

*I need to color in the blank white faces
Fill the void in with memories, dates and places
I'm lost without this knowledge of self
I'm sick and tired of trying to be like everybody else
If I don't have roots then how can I grow?
I'm gonna dig for the truth—fuck it, I need to know.*

He has made art of this digging, and a career. The first attracts audiences, as it did me that day; the second can attract critical questions. Is this same-old same-old: appropriation and exploitation of black and native cultures? Leaning out of my stone house to lob this question, I sense it's one Luckey has had to dodge more than a few times before. Only he doesn't dodge it. "A big piece," he says, "is accountability. Am I giving back? Am I in relationship?" To keep this relationship vital, Luckey uses an open process technique that involves staging an in-progress work before a multicultural group and dialoguing after with the audience. The community then becomes his teacher. (He's also worked formally with teachers such as African drummer Pope Flyne, African dancer Akua Angel, and African American poet June Jordan.)

Luckey points to "Thangs Taken," his annual alternative Thanksgiving celebration/performance, as evidence that's he not about newly renovated expropriation. The piece uncovers the lamentable history WACAN members are well aware of while also spotlighting local Native American artists and events. After his most recent "Thangs Taken Day" performance, a Lakota woman rose to speak, praising his work but expressing sadness that Native people could not themselves fill the room, as Luckey had that day. But it was important, he reported her as saying, that he was doing it. "Yes, I have white privilege," he says, "I can't avoid that, but I can leverage it. I can bring in other voices."

But he sees his art as not only "bringing in other voices." "I feel like my story [in Free Land] is as much about white people as about Native Americans. It's about what white folks have done. . . . As I tap into my family

history and ask what does this mean? I'm telling a piece of my own story as well." One in three white Americans, Luckey points out, has at least one ancestor who homesteaded.

As for class identity, Luckey admits that being the underdog is a key element of rap. Eminem may be white but he has a trailer park and a gone dad on his resume. "Identity and being down is highly contested in the Hip Hop community," he says. "In that sense of class trumps race, my work is really flippin' it, trying to do something different." It's a tool, he continues, to explore the oppressor side, the "Pimping privilege from class, skin color and sex," as "ID Check" phrases it. "It's kinda heavy," he says, this burden to fill the void left by silence and denial.

Is it a burden that weighs down his creativity? "I try not to limit my voice," he says, "to only be political. I don't feel like any of my work is separate from politics, but it's not only politics. I mean, part of what I'm working for is a fuller embodiment of all our humanity . . . our awe of life."

So wouldn't he, I ask, sometimes rather be writing about, oh, vegetables coming up in the garden than people who "yelled for lynching then brought [their] children to

Native Nation Protests Hog Farm, Violations of Sovereignty

By Oitancan Zephier

I am looking for all the support and publicity I can get in the native community on this hogfarm protest in Marty, SD on the Yankton Sioux Rez. Two weeks ago the state moved in and started claiming our tribal road. There is a hogfarm being built on state land, surrounded by indian land. It is a tactic to take more land. The YST is in litigation with the State of South Dakota now. They are saying we're a diminishing tribe with diminished lands. Our boundaries are undefined so we're a checkerboard rez. Recently there has been nearly 50 of us thrown in jail for protesting on the Indian land (road) by state officers. They say it's their road, when in reality we have had jurisdiction on it for the past 15 years. However, there is no physical proof that either of us own it. That would mean it goes back to the original owner in court. That makes us the rightful owner from my understanding of the law.

We need support. Tuesday we have court and will be in jail because of the prejudice of the local government. We need help! We need lawyers. Wednesday April 30, we will be rallying at the site near Marty, SD. AIM is planning on coming as well as Dennis Banks. We are awaiting confirmation on his arrival though.

People! We need your help! Come to Marty, SD now! We need the help of every nation that is willing to help us! Don't wait for an invitation. Please! Come help us now! We're too busy with things here to think of everyone that can help us. We have our hands full with what's in front of us. Call us. Make suggestions. Give us advice! Whatever it is, help us! We need bodies. We need people! people! people!

Judge Signs Order to Return SF8 Defendants Herman Bell, Jalil Muntaqim to NY for Parole Hearing

by NYC Jericho

After some last-minute procedural issues were resolved, Judge Philip Moscone signed the order to have Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim return to New York State for their parole hearings. Bell and Muntaqim have been imprisoned as three decades as part of the New York Three, and are currently facing trial in San Francisco in a resurrected COINTELPRO case against former members and associates of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, in the case of the "SF Eight," several of whom were tortured in the 1970s to coerce false confessions to the killing of a cop after the assassination of George Jackson inside San Quentin.

They will be transported by Federal Marshals. All parties agreed that the move would be temporary. Herman and Jalil waved their rights to fight extradition back to California.

They are expected to be back in San Francisco for the beginning of the Preliminary Hearing in the San Francisco 8 case, currently scheduled for September 8.

watch it"? "There have been moments when I felt like I could write about vegetables," he ponders, "but that's very political too – who picks them, you know, how they get to us." A man on message. An art with a mission. If I think it should be otherwise, there's the chorus of "ID Check" to put things in perspective. It's the part that compelled me to abandon the WACAN table once and for all and take one of the few empty seats in that chandelier-lit hall at the Sheraton:

*This is an ID check
like the border patrol
but this is not for my country
this is for my soul*

If it's for your soul, I guess, you don't have time to be penning pretty poems about the flowerets of a broccoli plant. The soul of white folks.

Free Land will premier in the Bay area this year and then go on the road. Luckey plans to make a DVD as well as a curriculum guide for classes studying The Homestead Act. For more information, email skylight@arielluckey.com.

Luckey's Myspace page is <http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendID=134546493>

We need people willing to fight! We need people willing to go to jail by a state officer on indian land! Doesn't that seem wrong to you? I went to jail, arrested while standing on a tribal highway by a South Dakota state deputy, while the Bureau of Indian Affairs watches. That's what is happening! It is wrong!

We need money for bail. Many more of us will be going to jail. If we don't fight this indian people will continue to lose land. Next time it will be your people. Remember when a cry for help came out what 'reason' or 'excuse' you gave. You'll get it right back when you need help. The system keeps us locked in place. It keeps us working, paying bills and plugged into society. In that mindset we're all robots programmed to do what the government wants us to do -- pay taxes! Give them money! 'I gotta feed my family,' you're thinking. I know it. I was too but overcame it. Tunkasina (the grandfather) knows that our fight is right and honorable. Better things will follow for us.

This is really not about a hogfarm! This is about the racist state of South Dakota moving in the middle of indian country and saying, 'This is our road!' Tomorrow it will be 'this is our land!' We need to fight! We need your help! View videos on youtube.com. Search for yankton sioux tribe hogfarm and ihanktonwan nation illegal arrests.

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**Herman Bell
of the SF8
and the
New York
Three**



“This occupation is unconstitutional and illegal and I hereby lawfully refuse to participate.”-Sgt. Chiroux, Iraq GI resister

by Courage to Resist, May 15, 2008

Sgt. Mathis Chiroux served in the Army until being honorably discharged from active duty last summer after over four years in Afghanistan, Japan, Europe and the Philippines. Today he publicly announced that he is refusing orders to be recalled from the Army's Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR) to deploy to Iraq. Mathis took this courageous stand in the Cannon House Office Building Rotunda after fellow members of Iraq Veterans Against the War testified before the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Here's his statement:

“My name is Sgt. Mathis Chiroux, and I served in the Army as a Photojournalist until being honorably discharged last summer after over four years of service in Afghanistan, Japan, Europe and the Philippines. As an Army journalist whose job it was to collect and filter servicemember's stories, I heard many stomach-churning testimonies of the horrors and crimes taking place in Iraq. For fear of retaliation from the military, I failed to report these stories, but never again will I allow fear to silence me. Never again will I fail to stand. In February, I received a letter from the Army ordering my return to active duty, for the purpose of mobilization for Operation Iraqi Freedom. This occupation is unconstitutional and illegal and I hereby lawfully refuse to participate as I will surely be a party to war crimes. Furthermore, deployment in support of illegal war violates all of my core values as a human being, but in keeping with those values, I choose to remain in the United States to defend myself from charges brought by the Army if they so wish to pursue them. I refuse to participate in the occupation of Iraq. To donate to Iraq Veterans Against the War Legal Fund to support Mathis, use their online donation form and select “Legal Fund” under special projects. If you would like to send a message of support to Sgt Mathis Chiroux, email thankyoumathis@iaw.org

Army to court martial objector Ryan Jackson May 30

Ryan's court martial has been rescheduled for Friday, May 30—it was originally Tuesday, June 3. The “Free Ryan Now!” vigil outside of Ft. Gordon is rescheduled for Thursday evening, May 29. War objector Army PFC Ryan Jackson was temporarily moved from his brig cell last week and arraigned at Fort Gordon, Georgia. Ryan was formally charged with multiple counts of AWOL stemming from his attempt to be released from the Army prior to Iraq deployment. He will face a Special Court Martial—with a maximum one year prison sentence—on Friday, May 30. Since voluntarily returning to Fort Gordon on April 14 and formally applying for a conscientious objector discharge, Ryan has been held in pre-trial confinement at the Charleston Naval Brig.

25-year old PFC Jackson joined the Army in 2005, and aspired to join the Special Forces. While stationed in Korea, inspired by the writings of Vietnam and Iraq war objectors, Jackson began to rethink his involvement in the Army. “Since I joined up with Courage to Resist and Iraq Veterans Against the War, my life has changed. I plan to write a book about all of this, and to make positive change in my community when I get out,” said AWOL PFC Ryan Jackson, before turning himself in at Fort Sill, Oklahoma on April 4. He had been absent without leave since December when a local commander vetoed his pending discharge from the 35th Signal Brigade at Fort Gordon, Georgia. “I feel ashamed every day,” Jackson wrote in his recent conscientious objector (CO) application. “I feel ashamed for taking part in the killing of others, and for allowing my comrades to be killed themselves. By putting on a uniform, I am showing my support. . . . I can no longer be a part of the Armed Forces or any organization of a violent nature.” After two and a half years of honorable service, Ryan says he could no longer ignore his conscience. “Once my beliefs started to evolve and change, I became a different person,” he explains. “It starts to take a hold of you, giving you hope that you can make a difference, that you can change what you are doing, and that it is not too late!” Courage to Resist collected and forwarded over 100 messages of support to Ryan. At this time we are asking that you send messages directly to Ryan at the Charleston Naval Brig: Ryan Jackson, 1050 Remount Rd, Bldg 3107, Charleston SC 29406-3515

If he is sentenced to additional brig time beyond that which he has already served in pre-trial confinement, he will be returned to the Charleston Naval Brig for the remaining sentence. Ryan asks that donations to his legal and political defense be made to Courage to Resist. To donate by check, note “Ryan Jackson” on the memo line, and send payable to Courage to Resist/HFC, 484 Lake Park Ave #41, Oakland CA 94610. All donations are tax-deductible. Courage to Resist is committed to covering Ryan's legal defense, and helping him launch his upcoming career of peace activism when he is finally released from the Army. He is currently being represented by civilian attorney James Brannum, co-chair of the National Lawyer's Guild Military Law Task Force, and Fort Gordon JAG officer Captain Kenny. Media contact: Fort Gordon Media Relations at 706-791-6001.

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