

# What's melting down faster, the polar ice-caps or the Wall Street financial markets?

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

When Huey P. Newton, Minister of Defense of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense was released from prison thanks to the "Free Huey or the sky's the limit!" campaign led by the BPP, he was asked how it felt to be free. He said, "I have only been moved from medium to minimum security." He understood, from his life experience as a Black man in the US and his time unjustly imprisoned for the death of an Oakland cop who tried to kill him, that even outside prison walls, he was still in prison, still not free.

Huey's understanding is one that we all need to take to heart, because as of September 19, 2008, everyone in the U.S. is officially inside one very large debtor's prison.

The settler colony peopled with indentured servants and imprisoned debtors from England, prepared to help steal the land of the indigenous people and oversee the labor of kidnapped and enslaved Africans, has come full circle. Thanks to the \$1,000,000,000,000.00+ bailouts of AIG Insurance, of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and of the stinking mass of "toxic" mortgages left to rot when the housing bubble burst, the US populace has taken on in a few weeks indebtedness greater than the entire equity value of all the companies on the NY Stock Exchange. Allegedly, Bush and the Fed took this action to avert total economic collapse (although whether they will succeed is still an open question).

In fact, it is simply more of the same process of corporate welfare, of socializing losses and privatizing gains, that has gone on since the advent of capitalism. The polar ice-caps, alpine glaciers and arctic tundra are melting due the "externalizing" of the costs of industrial manufacture and agriculture, internal combustion vehicles and fossil-fuel power generation. In a parallel fashion, the economic meltdown was caused by the transformation of the US economy under 'globalization' into one run entirely for and by global financial capital, where debt is repackaged as equity, monetarized and securitized. The 'growth' sectors of the US economy were weapons, prisons, housing, health care for a rapidly aging population, and the financial sector. Everything else is imported or out-sourced.

In the criminal justice system, the cops get carte blanche to use violence, the prosecutors pile on the charges and the 'strikes' to get defendants to cop a plea, and the judges sign off on perjured testimony. In the economic system, loans that could never be paid back were wrapped up with slightly better loans to disguise the stench and pawned off as assets in 'derivative' markets. The brokers, the bankers and the Fed were given carte blanche to fleece the suckers. The technical name for one of these mechanisms is a "credit default swap," but the more realistic name is a "long con," (like in the movie 'The Sting,') or more simply, fraud. It simply exposes the truth that Pierre Proudhon voiced a couple of centuries ago: **Property is theft.**

The bailouts became 'inevitable' (under capitalism) when Bush failed to put through the privatization of social security and the investment of the "social security trust fund" in the stock market. Without that fix, the Wall Street profit junkies created a housing bubble, and new financial 'products' with which to inflate it, to feed their habit.

This political system is incapable of socializing medical care. It is so impoverished of publicly financed infrastructure that major roadways collapse in Minneapolis. Passenger trains and freight trains in LA run in both directions on a single track, and Metrolink, the government agency running the trains couldn't afford simple safety equipment. Engineers were sweated, under contract, by a French low-bidder. The levees and homes are still not rebuilt in New Orleans three years later, and the poor Black people of Houston were left to sweat in the dark without help after Hurricane Ike. Yet remarkably, overnight, over a trillion dollars can be conjured up to bail out bankers and insurers who came face to face with the consequences of their own greed. In fact, the "bailouts" are not even real money, simply the assumption of new debts, the injection of new 'credit' into the system. Under the plan, the bankers and the Treasury will not even enable defaulting homeowners to escape foreclosure! And yet you are expected to pay for it!

Because unfortunately, debt no matter how it is dressed up is still debt. At some point, debt must be repaid. But since the debts always exceed the equity on which they are leveraged (check out by what multiple the principal plus total interest on even a "performing" mortgage exceeds the value of the property), at some point the roll-overs stop and the house of cards collapses. Then - miracle of miracles - some of the 'bad' debt is "written off" - it magically disappears as swiftly as it was created at the stroke of a banker's pen - and the rest of it is "paid off" through asset sales, the imposition of 'austerity' measures and other forms of genocidal exploitation. Having dished this out for years in the third world, the US is about to get a taste of its own medicine on the receiving end.

Unfortunately, too, even if a collapse took place, it would not be the demise of capitalism. This crisis is an opportunity for further concentration and centralization of capital, for Bank of America to pick up Merrill Lynch cheap and one or two investment banks to eat the others. Capitalism as an economic system requires the periodic extinction of capital and of productive capacity in order to function, just as much as it requires growth. In the absence of a sufficiently large war to fulfill the function of extinguishing a lot of capital and 'unprofitable' productive capacity, massive bankruptcies will have to do. But don't doubt that expanded war is somewhere over that time-horizon that Bush set for withdrawal from Iraq. As far as withdrawal from Iraq is concerned, you are of course aware that a

horizon recedes as you approach it (or perhaps disappears completely like a desert mirage). After all, the US still has a base in Cuba, Guantanamo Bay, convenient for torture, over 110 years after the Spanish-American War. But as far as war is concerned, Iran and then China are looming right over that horizon. US economic and military planners have specifically targeted China for "destructive reduction in capacity" to overcome capitalism's fatal contradictions.

It is unlikely, of course, that China will sit still for this, particularly as Chinese "savings" (read, the super-exploitation of Chinese workers) is the main source of any 'liquidity' still left in the US financial markets. The Chinese lend us money so we can buy their manufactures; they are unlikely to do so in order to finance their own destruction. The US is going to start intensifying the exploitation and austerity inside its "own" borders in a big way, thanks to the recent bailouts, even if the Chinese don't start cashing in their chips, but even more so if they do. The fire sale of US natural and capital resources to European, Arab and Chinese capitalists, already underway, will accelerate. US capital is staking the house on its military.

The incredibly stupid George Bush declared, upon stealing the presidency for the second time, that he had earned political capital in the campaign, and he was going to spend it. Of course, capital is not supposed to be spent; it's supposed to be invested, thereby allegedly generating wealth. The dirty little secret is that capital does NOT generate capital. The only sources of capital are the expropriation of wealth from labor, from learning (mental labor), and from nature (particularly land and water). If people started crying when gasoline reached \$5 a gallon, what will they do when water is \$5 a quart? Hopefully, when John McCain's economic adviser complained that the US was "a nation of whiners," he got it wrong. But up to this point, whining is about all we hear. Barack Obama cannot and will not save you. Only we can save ourselves and the planet from the vampires riding our backs.

It's time to up the ante. Look to Bolivia, Venezuela, Mexico, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, India, where people are fighting desperately against the oligarchs and imperialism for their water, their land, and their very lives. Look even at China, where last year there were tens of thousands of illegal job actions and protests under conditions of great repression. In this nation-sized debtors' prison, this prison house of nations, look to the prisoners, particularly the political and politicized prisoners who are educating and transforming themselves as they seek justice and liberation. Take inspiration! Fight back! Only the principles of solidarity, of mutual aid, of communal resistance, self-determination and sustainable self-reliance can guide us through the coming dark days and hard times. It's time to shed our fear of the high and the mighty. All their wealth and power comes from the people and the planet they exploit and oppress. As we break our identification with our oppressors, we free ourselves, and we weaken them. Remember, if the working and oppressed people of the world unite, **we have a world to win!**

If you'd like to comment, or for a text file of this editorial to forward, email:

**antiracistaction\_la@yahoo.com.**

PDFs of this and previous issues are available at:

**www.aratoronto.org**

## Confront Zionism - Divest from Israel

by the International Jewish Solidarity Network (IJSN)

International Jewish Solidarity Network will launch internationally on September 29, 2008 with the release of our Charter and Week of Action. Who is the International Jewish Solidarity Network? This a growing international network of Jews whose identities are not based on Jewish nationalism but on long histories of Jewish participation in liberation struggles from Eastern Europe and Iraq to Brooklyn and Mississippi. In this year of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the colonial State of Israel, we pledge to struggle against both the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the designation of Israel as a Jewish State. For the past two years, the network has been building an international network of anti-Zionist Jews to support existing and seed new Jewish anti-Zionist organizing in solidarity with Palestinian resistance. As with any other struggle for justice, working locally or even nationally is not enough.

The enemy we face is international, and what we can do is limited unless we find ways to work together across boundaries and regions. We are building an international voice that challenges Zionism and its claim to speak on behalf of Jews worldwide. As an international force, we can contribute to the movement to defeat US-backed Israeli imperialism. We do this through the following strategies: 1) solidarity with the struggle for Palestinian self-determination, 2) participation in broader anti-imperialist movements, and 3) the extrication of Jewish history, politics, community, and culture from Zionism. To read more about the network, go to [www.ijsn.net](http://www.ijsn.net).

From July 31 to August 3, 2008, in Berkeley, California, IJSN gathered anti-Zionist activists from continental Europe and the UK, India, Israel, the US and Canada. This first international organizing meeting was preparation for the public launch of the network over the 2008 Jewish high holidays. To read more about the meeting, go to [www.ijsn.net/en/ijsn/first\\_international/M36](http://www.ijsn.net/en/ijsn/first_international/M36). Since the international meeting we have engaged

activists in Morocco and Argentina. The network seeks to expand its work to other parts of the US, Europe, Canada, South and West Asia, South America, South Africa, Australia, and Eastern Europe. If you are interested in building the work of the network in your city or region, please email us at [ijsn@ijsn.net](mailto:ijsn@ijsn.net). We hope you will join us in the following activities moving forward.

On September 29, 2008, the network will put out its founding Charter with a clear anti-Zionist Jewish analysis and a call for a Week of Action. Over the next 2-3 years the network will organize tribunals that gather testimony in order to expose the tactics of and demand accountability from Zionist institutions and individuals. We will continue to engage in public education including forums, art exhibits, digital stories and workshops to the increase visibility of anti-Zionist narratives. Through supporting an anti-Zionist politic in the movements our members already participate in for racial, economic and gender justice, IJSN seeks to broaden support for the Palestinian struggle for justice.

Participation in existing Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) campaigns and other efforts to challenge Zionism: The network will not lead BDS efforts, but will encourage and support participation of its members in local, national and international campaigns. Supporting joint struggle between Jews of Arab, Persian and Asian descent and Palestinians: IJSN activists in Israel are developing relationships of joint struggle against Zionism and Israeli apartheid.

We need your participation and partnership in launching and evolving the programs, logo and infrastructure of the network. To read about the network's previous activities - including the Study to Action program, Nakba at 60 organizing, and participation in the Palestinian Popular Conference, the Cairo Conference and Liberation Forum and the US Social Forum - please visit **[www.ijsn.net/en/ijsn/C31/](http://www.ijsn.net/en/ijsn/C31/)**.

Contact Information: Email - [ijsn@ijsn.net](mailto:ijsn@ijsn.net), Web - [www.ijsn.net](http://www.ijsn.net). Thank you for your contributions and support in building this network! [ijsn.northamericaorganizing@gmail.com](mailto:ijsn.northamericaorganizing@gmail.com)

# Mohawk Grandmothers Beaten by Canadian Border Guards

by Brenda Norrell and Mohawk Nation News Staff

AKWESASNE -- Mohawk grandmothers Kahentinetha Horn and Katenies were taken into custody at the US/Canadian border on Saturday, June 14, 2008, when the two women were handcuffed and beaten by gangs of officers and border patrol agents. Eight officers beat Kahentinetha, 68-years-old, and five officers beat Katenies. Kahentinetha, publisher of Mohawk Nation News, suffered a heart attack and is in a Canadian hospital. Katenies was released from jail Monday evening and is in seclusion. Katenies, in a telephone interview on Tuesday afternoon, described the police attack on the women at the border. Katenies said the women were returning to Canada from a visit in the US, when they were stopped at the border. After the women showed their Haudenosaunee identification, they were told the IDs were not sufficient and they were detained. Then border agents did a background check.

Katenies was told that she had an earlier warrant. She had refused to recognize the authority of the Canadian government over her. In the earlier case she had stopped at a border check and was granted permission to pass, but border agents later claimed she was not cleared to pass. When she refused to recognize the authority of the Canadian government over her, a warrant resulted.

On Saturday, when Katenies refused to get out of the car, five huge Canadian officers and border agents jumped on her, dragged her out and threw her to the concrete, grinding her chin into the concrete.

"I went down so fast, they had knees in my back and kidneys. They were like a football team on me and they acted like they had no boundaries. They told me if I didn't cooperate, they would break my arms."

As officers attacked Katenies, Kahentinetha was on her cell phone calling family members and authorities for help. When Kahentinetha refused to hang up, eight officers attacked her. Katenies was placed in a cell and could hear the officers bring in Kahentinetha. Katenies could hear Kahentinetha yelling for them to loosen the handcuffs. By the screams of pain, Katenies said it sounded like the police were continuing to tighten the handcuffs as Kahentinetha cried out. Kahentinetha was handcuffed in a stress hold. The handcuffs cut off

her circulation and she suffered a heart attack. A family member arrived at the same time and was able to get an ambulance immediately for Kahentinetha and she was transported to a hospital.

Katenies was transported to jail in Cornwall, where she remained in custody from Saturday until Monday evening. Katenies said the two women were not charged, but were told they would be charged at a later date. A member of the Mohawk Warrior Society said, "They did this because we have the greatest weapon, the truth, and what Kahentinetha writes is the truth. They are terrified of the truth. What they are trying to do is provoke the Mohawks." He said ultimately what they want is to provoke the Mohawks into a confrontation so the Mohawks who are resisting will be shot and killed. He said the Canadian government's plan was to assassinate Kahentinetha.

No steps have been taken to charge the Canada Border Services Agents CBSA who assaulted Katenies and Kahentinetha. Kahentinetha suffered a trauma induced heart attack. They tried to beat Katenies to a pulp. They act like this is "business as usual". The prosecutors have not done their duty. Because of this there has been no public investigation and the crime has been swept under

the carpet. The two women have no money, but they have found a way that might make rogue crown agents accountable. They have filed an action in Canada's Federal Court.

This does not mean they are accepting Canadian jurisdiction over themselves or the Haudenosaunee. Canadian agents have no right to abuse human rights or commit crimes against anyone, including those foreign to Canada. Canada has signed many agreements promising to uphold international human right standards. You don't have to be a Canadian citizen to sue Canada. Canada's courts have an obligation to uphold the law. The two grandmothers filed their complaint in the Federal Court of Canada, under Section 48 of Canada's Federal Court Act. [You can find the instructions for filing on the Federal Court website]. To get things going, you pay the filing fee and hand in 5 copies of your "Statement of Claim". The court clerk puts on a gold stamped seal and signs it to prove it has been filed. They serve it on the government the next day, and the crown has 30 days to answer. When you draft your claim, just put the facts down. Make sure you don't include any allegations that you can't prove. For example, you need a direct witness, documentary evidence or video tapes from CBSA cameras. If you miss a deadline, your case will be finished. The crown has to follow the law too, but it might try to ignore you. Don't forget to include a demand that federal officials follow the court's timelines.

September 19, 2008, is the crown's deadline for answering the two grandmothers. If the crown doesn't answer, Canada will lose by default. The court should then order Canada to meet the grandmothers' demands. --MNN Staff

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Please Note. Legal actions have to be taken to protect our rights. We have no funds. If you can donate anything to our cause, it will be greatly appreciated. Donate to PayPal, [www.mohawknationnews.com](http://www.mohawknationnews.com), or "MNN Mohawk Nation News", Box 991, Kahnawake [Quebec, Canada] J0L 1B0.

## ANTI-OLYMPICS CONVERGENCE - FEB 2010

Communique by Olympics Resistance Network

The 2010 Winter Olympics is scheduled to take place on unceded indigenous land from February 12-28 2008. Far from being simply about 'sport', the history of the Olympics is one rooted in displacement, corporate greed, fascism, repression, and violence. Only the political and corporate elite - from real estate developers to security corporations - have anything to gain from the Olympics industry. The effects of the upcoming Winter Games have already manifested themselves with the expansion of sport tourism and resource extraction on indigenous lands. We have also seen increasing homelessness and gentrification of poor neighborhoods, increasing privatization of public services and union busting through imposed contracts and exploitative conditions especially for migrant labor. The national security apparatus is being fortified on the pretext of Olympics security; public spending and debt are ballooning; and the pace of environmental destruction has reach an unprecedented rate.

The Olympics Resistance Network is primarily based in Vancouver, Coast Salish Territories and exists as a space to coordinate anti-2010 Olympics efforts. In doing so, we act in solidarity with other communities across BC - particularly indigenous communities who have been defending their land against the onslaught of the Olympics since the bid itself. Our organizing is largely being done under the slogan of "No Olympics on Stolen Native Land." It is creating an opportunity for all anti-capitalist, indigenous, anti-poverty, labor, migrant justice, environmental justice, anti-war, and anti-colonial activists to come together to confront this two-week circus and the oppression it represents.

In addition to building ongoing educational and resistance efforts, we are organizing towards an anti-2010 convergence, currently called for between Feb 10th-15th. Building on the call by native warriors - particularly at the Indigenous Peoples Gathering in Sonora, Mexico in October 2007 - we will be working to coordinate the logistics to host all rebels converging on Vancouver, Whistler, and surrounding unceded native land during Feb. 2010. Over the next year, there will be more information provided regarding the convergence. In the meantime we encourage communities to fundraise, raise awareness, and organize towards the anti-2010 Olympics convergence. We hope to see you all in 2010 to demonstrate our indignation and resistance!

While we encourage people to continue their mobilizing and daily efforts rooted in their own local communities and local struggles, in the lead-up to the 2010 Games there will be several significant opportunities for coordinated and developed campaigns and actions. One such opportunity is the Nov 2009 - Feb 2010 Torch Relay "A Path of Northern Lights" across 100 cities. This Torch Relay will be the longest in-country relay in Olympic history- giving us the chance to make some anti-Olympic history! The relay route will be announced in the fall of 2008. Another upcoming opportunity is the Spirit Train, being launched on Sept. 21, 2008 by Canadian Pacific Railway (which has historically and currently played a critical role in the colonization and usurpation of indigenous lands) and VANOC

(Vancouver Organizing Committee for 2010 Olympics). We are calling for and encouraging protests and actions to disrupt the 'Spirit Train' as it stop across cities across Canada in Sept. and Oct. 2008.

If you are interested in hosting an Anti-Olympics educational such as a film screening or panel with speakers, please contact us if you require support. We are able to provide educational materials, suggestions for speakers from diverse experiences, as well as resistance art, posters, comics, buttons, stickers and more! In particular if you are located along the West Coast and your group of friends, affinity group, youth group, organization, campus, union local, or community center is interested in learning about the history of the Olympics, the impacts of the Olympics, and Olympics resistance efforts please contact us! We are working on compiling contacts throughout Turtle Island in an effort to broaden our networks, disseminate information as well as updates, and to connect with as many communities as possible.

- Are you interested in actively organizing or coordinating anti-2010 Olympics resistance efforts, for example anti-Spirit Train actions? Please send us an email at [olympicresistance@riseup.net](mailto:olympicresistance@riseup.net) with your location and affiliation and specify that you would like to be added to the cross-continental network list to coordinate anti-Olympics efforts and communications.
- Are you interested in regular announcements including news of interest and events? Please email us at [olympicresistance@riseup.net](mailto:olympicresistance@riseup.net) and specify that you would like to be added to the ORN-announce list, a low traffic moderated list for weekly public announcements and updates. Email: [olympicresistance@riseup.net](mailto:olympicresistance@riseup.net) Web: [www.no2010.com](http://www.no2010.com)

### The Olympics Resistance Network Basis of Unity

Anti-Olympics organizing through the Olympic Resistance Network is largely being done under the primary slogan and understanding of "No Olympics on Stolen Native Land", although this is an opportunity for a large convergence of groups, issues, and sectors to come together. We look forward to working together across our diverse experiences and movements, while sharing a common understanding including an anti-colonial and anti-capitalist analysis; respect for diversity of tactics and strategies; an anti-oppression understanding and solidarity with those most directly affected; and organizational philosophy based on decentralization and autonomy within a coordinated and accountable structure. It is open to both delegates from groups as well as individuals interested in building anti-Olympics resistance by providing a space for existing groups to better share and coordinate their efforts as well as a space for this Network itself to take on its own activities including actions, educational efforts, creative resistance, awareness raising etc.

# Open Letter To The KPFA Staff (Paid &Unpaid): IF THE SHOE FITS

by Kiilu Nyasha

I was outraged to hear that my “daughter,” Nadra Foster, was attacked, brutalized, hogtied, and arrested at KPFA and charged with trespassing, resisting arrest, assaults on police, and other charges, with bail set at \$81,000! Most of you have already heard the “sound track” of this vicious assault on Nadra, a single Black mother of two daughters, graduate of the Apprentice Program, and ten-year volunteer staffer at KPFA. Thanks to Media Alliance, Nadra’s reduced bail was met (\$500) and she was released in the wee hours of Saturday morning, August 24.

I spoke to her late Saturday morning and again on Sunday. Her description of what happened right there in the studio is simply incredible. First, it’s disgusting that KPFA staff would call the police to solve a simple problem that could have been handled by other staff. Any KPFA staff that would even consider such a move in the present-day context of a very racist police state (about which Pacifica often reports) should never again refer to themselves as a ‘progressive.’ In fact, KPFA should drop that word from its vocabulary since its practice puts it in the same category as Fox or ABC -- an establishment radio network. Further proof lies in the grossly disproportionate and extremely long coverage of the fascist parties’ conventions. But I digress.

Nadra told me that she was calling for a ride when two (White) police officers arrived in the small first-floor studio. When she calmly told them that the person who told her to leave the station had no authority to do so, one of the pigs “body-slammed” her, knocking her from a chair to the floor. She then got up; protesting the assault (verbally) and the other pig started beating her. At that point, Anita Johnson tried to come to her aid and was forced out of the room, at which point the two pigs called for backup. Shortly thereafter, six more pigs joined the fray and began beating Nadra again, kicking her all over her body and in her face. When she was handcuffed and asked if she wanted to be hogtied, she proclaimed, “I’m a human being!” They proceeded to beat her again and wrap her in this contraption that was like a full-length straight jacket (from her description) -- leaving her horizontally facing the ceiling as they carried her out of the station.

It was first reported that Nadra suffered a broken arm. I’m sure it felt like it, but X-rays showed her forearm was “severely sprained.” Since falling goes with my medical territory, I can testify that sprains and bruises can feel like fractures. In fact, I spent six weeks in hospital (1998) unable to stand, bear weight, behind a bad bruise I thought at originally to be a fracture.

I specifically asked Nadra if she had cussed at the pigs (knowing from experience that I would have called them everything but a child of god). She said, “No.” and I was amazed. But Nadra is not Kiilu; she has a very calm, easy disposition and is not given to cursing. All the more reason they had no business assaulting her; they had no provocation whatsoever.

Now, I know that JR was NOT in the station because he would have been in jail for resisting arrest, no doubt. (He already got arrested once before for aiding Rashida when she was attacked by police on assignment -- another

story). But to all those who were present, I want to know how you could passively watch your colleague and my dear friend (who has been so good to me she’s like a daughter), a mild-mannered, soft-spoken, dedicated person -- who else volunteers their time for ten years to serve their community? -- be beat down several times by a gang of pigs and do nothing? In short, I want to know why none of you was arrested for resisting arrest?

But then, there’s no “all of us or none” kinda thing going on at KPFA, is there?

So since at least some of you are cowards and bullies (same thing), and some of you are just passively liberal, here’s what you can do if you have any humanity at all:

## REPARATIONS IMMEDIATELY OR POST-HASTE!

Just to be clear, reparations means to “repair the damage” that has already been done. In this case, collective

responsibility by the staff at KPFA should be assumed for the harm done to our sister, Nadra H. Foster. Charges should be dropped and/or Nadra’s defense should be undertaken (paid for) by KPFA. Medical expenses should be covered by KPFA’s insurance or by whatever means is available for such. New bylaws should be established that preclude such a thing from ever reoccurring; esp. specific guidelines re conflict resolution and the banning of paid or unpaid staff. Police should never be called in to settle a non-violent dispute -- period. Nadra should be reinstated or un-banned as an unpaid staff member and given an official apology (hardly sufficient but the least thing to do to begin to repair the damage done to relationships and the social environment at KPFA.) Unpaid staff should receive the same consideration, respect, and accommodation that paid staff gets, however that is to be institutionalized. The most important reparation should involve the creation of a daily or weekly Black public affairs program devoted to issues affecting our local Bay Area Black Diaspora which includes indigenous-, Haitian-, Caribbean- and Latino-Africans, among others. The issue of police brutality and murder is ever present and escalating in predominately Black neighborhoods. Coverage of such incidents should be of paramount concern to the staff of Pacifica and KPFA. Had such a program been on KPFA airwaves, perhaps this incident could have been avoided.

As a former unpaid staff (1983 -- 1995), I refused to apply for a new program after being dissed in 1995. I left feeling like “I’m not going to volunteer to be disrespected!” I feel strongly that those who spend long hours producing, editing, board op-ing, hosting, etc., FOR FREE should get MORE RESPECT not less. Think about it. Moreover, if it were not for the majority staff that is unpaid, KPFA and nearly all listener-sponsored media would not survive.

Finally, if the management staff is unwilling or uncooperative with regard to making amends for this egregious incident, KPFA will surely lose standing and respect in the Black community -- and in all communities wherein human beings live. And it should lose funding as well. In any case, it would certainly demonstrate clearly its hypocrisy.

# CKLN fires its News Director

by Kristin Schwartz

On Monday August 11 I was fired from my position as News Director of CKLN 88.1 FM in Toronto. I will be fighting this termination with the support of the staff union, CUPE Local 1281. It has been an honor and a privilege to be able to serve CKLN as News Director over the past years, and I have enjoyed working with the others who work there. I expect to have that opportunity again in the future. I am writing to seek your support.

Without warning and without cause, after 10 years of service to CKLN, and only six weeks after returning from a year-long parental leave, I was told that the current board of directors and I “do not see eye to eye.” For that reason I was terminated, effective immediately. It is true that I “don’t see eye to eye” with the current board as they have taken many steps that I disagree with. This includes interfering in news programming in ways that are totally unprecedented, and expelling 30 volunteers who have produced excellent, community-based, progressive programming at CKLN, without giving any reasons or opportunity to appeal. This course of action is shameful and demonstrates a complete lack of responsible leadership, in my view.

But “not seeing eye to eye” is not a lawful reason for firing employees. Thankfully, I now have some protection from this board’s arbitrary behavior because our workplace is unionized with the largest labor union in the country, the Canadian Union of Public Employees. CUPE Local 1281 is fighting my termination on my behalf.

Please, take a few moments to write a letter in support of my work at CKLN. You can write to <stationmanager@ckln.fm> and <programdirector@ckln.fm>. You may want to highlight these points:

- The importance of CKLN’s news department for broadcasting progressive perspectives on the critical issues of our time - war, poverty, violence, ecological devastation - and for providing access to the airwaves to poor and working people, racialized people, women, queer and trans people, youth, disAbled people, and others who are underrepresented or misrepresented in mainstream media
- The opportunities our news department has created for students, youth and community members to learn about broadcasting
- My work as a journalist and producer of programming which has aired across Canada and the United States
- My excellent record of supporting annual special programming for International Women’s Day, LGBTQ Pride, and Prisoner Justice Day
- My contributions to the National Campus/Community Radio Association, and
- The outrageous violation of my rights as a unionized worker, in the midst of bargaining for a first contract.

You may send a copy to me at <kristin.schwartz2008@gmail.com>, our union at <office@cupe1281.ca>, and to Toby Whitfield, a member of CKLN’s board of directors representing the Ryerson Students Union, at <vp.finance@rsuonline.ca>. The RSU is CKLN’s largest funder. Thanks for your support.

## Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education needs your help!

Postal and printing costs are up. Dozens of new prisoners ask to get free subs every month. Friends of ARA-LA/PART are either in prison, like General T.A.C.O./ Wolverine Shakur of the Black Riders Liberation Party, or facing prosecution for anti-fascist political activity. We had to postpone this issue almost a month because of a lack of sufficient funds and staffing. We may have to cut back our publication frequency next year to four quarterly issues from 6 bi-monthly issues.

### What can you do?

We rely entirely on subscriptions and reader donations to publish. We’ve been coming out for 21 years, distributing thousands of copies free to prisoners, anti-racists and other concerned people without partisan subsidy, government funds or corporate grants. We depend entirely on you, the reader, to keep printing hard-hitting anti-racist, anti-colonialist analysis. (Prisoners, please donate what you can, or get someone outside to subscribe!) If you like what you’re reading --

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# Charter Schools and the Commodity of “Public” Education

By Jose Lara and Anthony Martin

The debate over charter schools and the privatization of education can be heard in teacher parking lots, the faculty cafeteria and most loudly in the union hall of the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA). The debate rages over what to do about the increasing number of charter schools in Los Angeles and what this means for the future of public education. There are those who believe that every new charter school brings us one step closer to merit-pay, school vouchers, and the end of public education as we know it. However, we must extend the narrow paradigm that equates the expansion of charter schools to the privatization of education, because not all charters are created equal and in fact, at times some charter schools are more “public” than public schools.

## Towards a redefinition of “Public Schools”

Public school should not be defined so far as merely being government-funded education. Far too often the “public” does not include all community stakeholders that attend and live within the boundaries of the school. Instead the term “public” is really referring to private companies, consultants and lawyers who make a private killing off of public funding of education, by selling school districts so-called “accountability measures” that are really code words for culturally-biased standardized tests.

But these trends, which exploit and pervert the same system that should serve to emancipate children of the poor and working classes of society, do not stop here. Not only do these companies sell these tests to school districts, but they also profit from study guides, curriculum, teacher-training, and intervention programs that are supposed to help to improve test scores while forgetting why schools were created in the first place: so that children can learn. This is not the type of “public” education that we should be defending.

There are those who argue that what makes public schools “public” is that they accept all students, and that people get to vote for their school board members and thereby can hold the school board accountable. The first point is well taken; public schools do – theoretically -- accept all students; that is, if they have room for them on campus. If they do not, then they can bus them off out of their neighborhood to another school. Those students who are allowed to attend the nearby public school may not be there for long, especially if they are students of color. Currently, the push-out rates for students of color in the Los Angeles Unified School District are near 50%. For non-Asian males, the numbers are even higher. The reality is that “public” schools have failed to properly educate their students, especially students of color.

Having an elected school board does not make things much better either. Most school board members do not represent the best interests of those very students that they are responsible for. In fact, they often use the school board seat as a spring board for city council and other elected positions. Then Los Angeles Unified School Board member, Jose Huizar, for example, did nothing in 2005 when Santee High, the newest high school in LAUSD in over 30 years, opened its doors understaffed and without the proper resources. This led to a student riot and revolt on campus. Unfortunately, Jose Huizar was too busy running for Los Angeles City Council to worry about the problems at Santee (he won the city council seat by a large majority). Despite calls from parents and teachers, Jose Huizar did nothing to assist in ending the chaos occurring at Santee. The irony is that Mr. Huizar was all too eager to be front and center during the school’s grand opening, when all the media cameras were present. The reality is that our election process does not hold the School Boards accountable. Candidates are supported by big campaign chests raised by corporate interests, the Mayor, and other forces. Moreover, many of the parents of children in LAUSD are not eligible to vote anyway because of their citizenship status.

We must redefine what is truly “public.” By public, we mean essentially democratic schools that have local control; that it is the parents, teachers, and students who make the important decisions at the school. By public we refer to committed teachers who teach beyond the state standards in order to include cultural relevance. The unfortunate truth is that it is generally these same, committed teachers who end up being persecuted, fired, or blacklisted from the school district as a result of their direct, in-class advocacy for their students’ best interests. This was the case last year with the firing of Ms. Karen

Salazar from Jordan High School in Los Angeles for being “too afro-centric” in her teaching. Jordan High School is a historically predominantly African-American high school. If Jordan High School were truly a “public” school, then parents, students, and fellow teachers would have had their voices heard and Ms. Salazar would not have been fired. Unfortunately, this was not the case. Despite the community outcry, Ms. Salazar was removed from Jordan by LAUSD officials.

It is cases like the one at Jordan High that make one wonder, as an educator, as a community member, and as a concerned human being who contributes to such a so-called “public” school, exactly where the line is drawn between an emancipating education and a repressive institution and system. We don’t need a “public” school that perpetuates the same trends that contribute to the same problems that haunt our society and those of our community’s youth. These include the lack of representation of the interests of students, the lack of tools to advocate for oneself and one’s community, and the general lack of consciousness that could serve to realize any type of truly public education, capable of promoting true social justice.

## Charter schools as a point of scrutiny for public schools

This brings one as an educator to wonder about exactly where the point exists at which a school begins to fulfill its responsibilities to its students and to its community. It has been the case that within the realm of public schools, there have been an abundance of economic, political, and repressive motives that have not benefited students in the least. Therefore, in a consideration of the “charter-school movement,” superficial criticisms have naturally abounded over the motives and whether they differ qualitatively from those that covertly drive public schools. Some charters may be driven by privatization and profit, (as are some ‘public’ schools), but others are not.

*Academia Semillas del Pueblo*, located in the community of El Sereno, just east of downtown L.A., for instance, is an example of a truly “public,” democratic charter school that has local control over management, teachers, curriculum, schedule and budget. “Dedicated to providing urban children of immigrant native families an excellent education founded upon their own language, cultural values and global realities,” Academia stands as a shining ray of light in the face of a deteriorating, dysfunctional public education system. Students learn multiple languages, including Mandarin and an indigenous language. Such a school provides not a threat to public education, but a challenge to so-called “public” schools to fulfill their educational mission.

First LAUSD, the second-largest school district in the nation, must understand that building long-overdue schools is only part of the solution, and that the priority is and always should be to serve the needs, wants and children of the community. Then perhaps the argument can be qualitatively made against charter schools in general. Until then, however, sight of the emancipatory goal of education must not be lost or diluted by shallow arguments for or against charter schools. Rather, the principle of educating youth must be reemphasized and perhaps even redefined. If charter schools are championing this principle, then so be it. Let them serve as a challenge to so-called public schools to do the same.

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For more information about ARE, please visit

[www.razaeducators.org](http://www.razaeducators.org)



## PUERTO RICO INDEPENDENCE SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT (PRISM) CALL TO ACTION

This is a call to join and be part of the formation of the Puerto Rico Independence Solidarity Movement (PRISM) in the US, a movement to re-group existing solidarity committees and organizations working with Puerto Rico, existing social movement and faith-based organizations that want to do work on Puerto Rico, and to educate those organizations, movements, networks, alliances etc., about the case of the colonial status of Puerto Rico. The launch date is July 25, 2008, a date associated with the US military invasion of Puerto Rico at Guanica Bay.

Mobilization dates: September 23, 2008, the goal is to organize and mobilize around the case of Puerto Rico as a colony of the US. This date Marks the ‘Grito de Lares’ issued by Don Emeterio Betances for the Independence of Puerto Rico. Organize protests, educational and/or cultural forum or activity related to educating the public and making people aware and supportive of the right to self determination by the people of Puerto Rico not the US Congress. July 25, 2009: Mark the one year active development of the PRISM and preparing for the mobilization on the United Nations supporting the right of Puerto Rico and demanding the end of the colonial status. September 23, 2009: The United Nations takes up the case of Puerto Rico and the move is to get it to the General Assembly of the United Nations and affirm the right to end colonialism. A mobilization is planned for the UN in New York City. Other actions are planned in other cities and states.

Historically, Puerto Rico was winning its battle for independence from the Spanish empire in 1898, gaining autonomy, when the US intervened through its war against Spain, forcing Spain into handing over its colonies to the United States, including Puerto Rico without the Puerto Ricans’ agreement, Guam, the Philippines, and other territories. Puerto Rico’s status under United States domination and control is that of a colony for past 110 years. Since 1953, the U.S. has held on to its control of Puerto Rico under a neo-colonial ‘commonwealth’ status. The colonial relationship of Puerto Rico to the United States under whatever name must end now. Puerto Rico has the right to self-determination and sovereignty as a people and as a nation. The United Nations affirmed this standing in numerous declarations seeking to end colonialism in the world. In the last 28 years, the independence movement in Puerto Rico has introduced numerous resolutions the UN demanding its inalienable right to independence. For the first time on June 8, 2008, it obtained a ‘unanimous vote’ by the Special Committee of Decolonization acknowledging the right of Puerto Rico to decide its own destiny.

For information and questions, contact:

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# ALL OUT TO CLEVELAND, OH: 14th ANNUAL ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE!

By the Anti-Racist Action Conference Planners

During the weekend of October 11, the Anti-Racist Action Network will be holding its 14th annual conference in Cleveland, OH. All ARA chapters and other dedicated anti-fascists are invited to attend the 2008 conference. The gathering, taking place over 3 days, will include ARA's annual plenary, caucuses and discussion on current issues facing anti-fascists. Various workshops and several social events are also planned. Organizations will be tabling all weekend as well.

Please note that only Network affiliated chapters will have voting privileges during the plenary, and only vouched anti-fa may attend the plenary. If you are a part of a non-affiliated chapter or collective that wants to become affiliated with ARA-NET, please see the organizers as soon as you arrive. All friends of ARA are welcome and encouraged to participate in the rest of the weekend.

We are envisioning this conference as a gathering of all dedicated anti-fascists -whether in Anti-Racist Action or not - and would like to see this year's conference include as many people and new ideas as possible.

If you are new to anti-fascism, please come and learn from our experiences (and help us open our eyes to new possibilities);

If you are a former member, please come and get back in touch with us;

If you are an unaffiliated chapter - for whatever reason - come to the conference, meet other anti-racists and anti-fascists and take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about ARA-NET and what benefits there are to being a part of the Network.

Over the next few weeks, we will be confirming the details of the conference and will send out a registration form and more specific details. For now, please mark the date on your calendar and plan to join us in Cleveland for our annual conference!

Hope to see YOU there!

In solidarity,  
The Anti-Racist Action Conference Planners  
araconference@hush.com

## SOUTHERN ONTARIO ARA SHUTS DOWN FASCISTS IN LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA!

By Frank, SOARA

On Sunday, July 27th, anti-fascists ("antifa") came together from across Southern Ontario to confront and shut down an attempt by long time hate organizers to intimidate the participants of London's 2008 Pride Parade. Acting on information found posted on white supremacist websites, antifa in several cities were able to organize and produce the numbers despite minimal preparation time.

Close to 30 people gathered at Victoria Park at 11:30AM to discuss the plan for the day and create banners that would be used to block out the homophobic and anti-gay signs. As expected, harassment from the London Police Department was heavy from the get-go. Police used several tactics in an unsuccessful attempt to get information from and intimidate those gathered at Victoria Park (i.e. good cop / bad cop, isolating individuals and pressing for answers, intrusive photographs, etc). The group was approached by the cops repeatedly before they even left the park.

At around 12:15PM the 30-person strong crew left Victoria Park with several large banners, flags, and signs, heading down to pay the the fascists a visit at their meeting spot, the corner of Dundas and Colborne. Rumors had circulated earlier that upwards of 20 white supremacists would be present for the hate demonstration. However, in reality an unimpressive 5 people (including Randall Linton, Melissa Guille, Dave Ruud, and Louis Morin), primarily washed up Canadian Heritage Alliance (CHA) members,

managed to drag their sorry selves out of bed early enough on a Sunday to wave around bristol board signs with sloppy slogans scrawled across in black sharpie.

During the initial confrontation a minor incident broke out that resulted in one ARA activist being arrested after a bonehead grabbed at a member of ARA. This police action was completely unwarranted and was a weak attempt to discourage those involved in the ARA demonstration. Our comrade was released from detention after we came together and arranged support for him.

Throughout the entirety of the parade, the fascists' signs were completely covered by ARA banners and flags, which was not exactly difficult considering that the homophobes were outnumbered by ARA 6 to 1. It did not take long for the members of the CHA and their supporters to become visibly frustrated and downright embarrassed that their day had been such an obviously miserable failure. On several occasions various boneheads found themselves completely alone and encircled by Rainbow banners, pro-Queer and ARA slogans as they scurried up and down the streets.

Towards the end of the parade the fascists called it quits after having several of their signs torn up, being publicly humiliated, and generally having a terrible Sunday out. They dispersed without incident, enjoying the police protection that they had greatly benefited from all day long.

**No Homophobia! No Fascist Canada!**  
--SOUTHERN ONTARIO A.R.A.

## A PROFOUND LOSS: SAMMONO CHAU DROWNS

Sammono Chau was a dedicated Calgary Anti-fascist who accidentally drowned in a river in Guelph in early September. He was an incredibly important part of the Calgary radical community and a strong support for his friends and community. His dedication and strong beliefs to vegan SxE and anti-fascism was amazing. His funeral is on Tuesday and Wednesday in Montreal. The funeral will cost a lot of money and Sammono's parents are accepting and appreciating donations to cover this massive financial cost. Sammono's father Sambo says that any donations will be greatly appreciated. You can reach him (Sambo Meas Chau) at the following email: [chaupream@hotmail.com](mailto:chaupream@hotmail.com). Sammono lives in all of us. --AntiFa-4-Life



This is Sammono's last picture at Montreal Impact soccer game for his birthday. Thanks. --Sambo

## In Memoriam: Spit Newborn & Dan Shersty Tenth Anniversary of their Deaths



Lin "Spit" Newborn (above left) and Dan Shersty (above right) were good friends and committed anti-racist activists associated with Anti-Racist Action Las Vegas. Spit was an artist who worked on body designs and piercings, and a key figure and peace-maker in the Las Vegas counter-culture; Dan was an active-duty member of the US Air Force. Both were committed to ending racism and stopping the fascist violence and intimidation of young people in Las Vegas by nazi boneheads. Over the July 4th weekend in 1998, the two were duped into heading out into the desert on the outskirts of town, where they were abducted, ambushed and killed by several nazi boneheads. Police, who were connected to some of the bone-heads involved as supposed "confidential informants," handled the case poorly, and mainstream civil rights and anti-nazi groups in LV pretended it was a case of gang rivalry. One of the killers was allowed to escape to Germany. Another was eventually caught and convicted as an accessory, and a third was found guilty of the killings and sentenced to death. Spit and Dan are martyrs of anti-racist resistance who will live forever in the struggle!

# Bolivia:

## Faced with fascist fury the answer is people's wrath in legitimate defense

By Social organizations of the city of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, September 16, 2008

The results at the polls, and once again the marvelous resistance of the Plan 3000 [neighborhood] against the fascist gangs, and the radical nature of the resolutions of the National Committee for Change (Conalcam), show that the right wing and the national bourgeoisie have only been allowed to survive. They represent an obstacle with the support of imperialism. The recall referendum and two years of economic and political sabotage show that the Bolivian landowners and businessmen are just a small minority in society.

We greet with extreme support and as a totally correct step, the Supreme Decree, which finally calls for a constitutional referendum. The government is starting to move in a firmer way, under the pressure of its social base, the mobilized workers and peasants, as shown in the statement of President Morales: that from this day onwards the real protagonist of any dialogue is the people.

We will also be called to vote on the question that is the real issue of this struggle: the ownership of the land. To reduce to 5000 or 10,000 hectares the maximum amount of land allowed to one single landowner represents a serious blow to the agro-financial structure of Bolivian capitalism and against the opposition based in the East, with the demand 'more land to distribute - less power to the oligarchy.' The measures of civil disobedience by the opposition and the civic committees in the East represent the defense of the existing structure of land ownership and exploitation. The new Constitution affects powerful interests, those of the cattle ranchers, the soybean barons and their imperialist masters and partners. Thus their resistance has been violent; they'll defend by all means their ownership of the land and the State.

The recall referendum on August 10 has been yet another show of strength and militancy of the Bolivian masses. It's shown that the workers and peasants of Bolivia are not prepared to lose what they won through struggle since the Water War. On the contrary, they still have great expectations of change.

The UN charter and in the codes and laws of the country, the right of legitimate defense is recognized as a legal right, when faced with attacks or abuses against people, institutions or countries. This applies when fundamental rights are violated, and the principle of proportionality should be respected (example: to a smack in the face, a proportional response would be a smack in the face). What is happening in Bolivia, particularly in Santa Cruz and other departments like Tarija, Beni and Pando, is really an insult, not only against the country, but against the whole world. The world witnesses with shock the images of groups of crazed fascists, paid and following the slogans of prefects and civic committees who oppose President Morales, attacking women, the elderly and massacring anybody who is in their way. And even worse, they act with complete impunity, in this land, which, according to the fascists, is theirs and nobody else's.

The police, as a body in charge of maintaining order and above all of safeguarding the lives of citizens, has been overrun and we still receive beatings and humiliations. For how much longer? We do not know. But when we see all these criminal acts, it is an outrage against human dignity, and we are referring not only to the attacks on women wearing traditional shirts (polleras), but attacks against anyone. This is an act against human dignity that we should all be ashamed of as Bolivians.

It is not enough to denounce these facts as if in the wail of the accomplice; this must come to an end, the people cannot take it any more. The people have no other option but to fight back with popular wrath in LEGITIMATE DEFENSE! We repeat it once again, not everything can be solved through votes, because they are not enough to achieve peace.

Therefore we agree to:

Denounce the business mafia of the Civic and Prefectural Committees, who would rather destroy the Bolivian state before losing their economic privileges, having appropriated for themselves large swaths of land and the natural resources of Bolivia.

Declare our absolute opposition to the fascist Civic-Prefectural actions, with looting and destruction of our public institutions. These actions have been carried out by groups financed by the right wing.

Appeal to the working class, the peasants, the street vendors, neighborhood juntas and the organized people in general to declare a national mobilization in defense of the unity of Bolivia and of our Bolivian brothers who are suffering aggressions and massacres in the East of Bolivia, on the part of the Civic Committees and the Prefects.

That the Bolivian people should come out in the streets against the danger of a coup, that has been prepared by the national and multinational companies together with military officers who are traitors to the country, and want to sell off our companies and natural resources again, so that the Bolivian state becomes indebted again.

That the Social Organizations of Bolivia must be the direct protagonists, by any means and resources necessary, in the solution to the problems of the country (the process of change should not be solved through clashes between small groups).

September 13, 2008, signed by Santa Cruz Departmental Workers Union, Association of Neighborhood Juntas of Santa Cruz, Associations of Small Traders of the City of Santa Cruz Market, Organization Andrés Ibáñez (the Egalitarians), Organization Avanzada Che Guevara, Peoples' Youth Union of the Department of Santa Cruz, Social University Movement of the U.A.G.R.M., and 10 other community groups

Translated by In Defence of Marxism <http://www.marxist.com/faced-with-fascist-fury-the-answer-is-people-s-wrath-in-legitimate-defence.htm>

## On the situation in Bolivia

by the FAG (Federação Anarquista Gaúcha(Brazil), Sept. 17, 2008

### **SOLIDARITY WITH THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE! THE FUTURE OF LATIN AMERICA IS BEING PLAYED OUT IN BOLIVIA!**

The current events in Bolivia leave the organized anarchists of the FAG with a sense of alarm. The problem is not the defense of a government with a nationalist profile and indigenous roots. It is the unconditional defense of the popular struggle of Latin American people. We have had and continue to keep organic contacts with Bolivian comrades since 2003, that is before the people's victory in the "Gas War", before the fall of Gonzalo Sanchez de Losada, before the fall of the president who succeeded him, Carlos Mesa, and long before the MAS' election victory.

Even then it was clear to the FAG that the political game in Bolivia was a tough one, without legal or institutional limits. The struggle to build Popular Power ("poder popular") has various aspects and at the moment the Evo Morales and Álvaro García Linera government expresses the wishes of the people to win back definitive sovereignty over their ancestral land. Evo does not do just what he wants, and neither does he govern with the bankers, like the ex-factory worker Lula. Today, the country that defeated neo-liberalism dozens of times is facing its greatest challenge. The various ancestral peoples and nationalities of the old Viceroyalty of Upper Peru, the traditional Quechua, Aymara, Guaraní, Tupi societies and dozens of other ethnic groups, the living descendants in the melting pot of the cities, the heroic resistance of the miners, the cocaleros, of El Alto, of Cochabamba, the corner-to-corner street fighting in La Paz, all this has defeated the enemy several times. These people have made the organization of the social fabric, the practice of communal justice and grassroots alliances into the bulwark of the defeat of a system of rotten political parties, corrupted by the privatizations of the 1980s; with stones and dynamite they defeated the Army which operated under the control of the trafficker General Hugo Banzer; by promoting cooperative practices, they reject the poisonous presence of the oil transnationals, including the hateful sub-imperialist presence of Brazil.

The struggle is now an intense one, against the oligarchy of the so-called Half Moon which dominates the departments of Tarija, Beni, Pando and Chuquisaca and is controlled by the large landowners, soy farmers and drug traffickers in Santa Cruz, against the interests of the people. The Morales government is one of the targets, but these people are also aiming at destroying popular organization and the indigenous alternatives, the traditional, community forms of controlling social life, the re-appropriation by the people of the ownership of the subsoil and its natural resources. This struggle for autonomy is nothing more than the political will of an oligarchy allied with the transnationals, an attempt at a coup sponsored by the Department of State, the CIA and the DEA and financed with money stolen from the Bolivian people. The multitude of men and women who struggle for "autonomy" are mostly the employees, party members and supporters of these oligarchies. The situation of civil, anti-governmental disobedience in Bolivia at the moment is immense. On the left, the social protests are getting stronger and stronger and their demands are forcing Morales to do what a majority of the organized people propose. But on the right, the oligarchy that also emerged victorious from the revocative

referendum of the national and regional governments is devoting every effort to chaos, the lockout and an economic blockade. They do not want to pay taxes to the government in La Paz. They want to keep for themselves all the wealth of the country, just as the banks suck our GDP and the squalid bureaucracy sucked the lifeblood of the Venezuelan PDVSA before the people gained victory in April 2002. Comrades, today in Bolivia there is a struggle against the oligarchy; it is a struggle which is part of the Latin American peoples' war against the chains of imperialism, masked under the macabre guise of globalization.

We must be clear about something, though. It must be stated that the FAG as an organization does not support the defense of any Statist or bourgeois government. Our support is as always for the process being carried on by the peoples who wish to defend their Bolivarian, Artigist heritage. It is for the political will of the social institutions and grassroots bodies who arduously combat the growing bureaucracy in Venezuela and the vacillation that is typical of charismatic leaders, but without the organicism and due obedience to the people, as is proper for true socialist militants. Lastly, our struggle is alongside the Ecuadorian CONAIE (*Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas de Ecuador*), the Venezuelan ANMCLA (*Asociación Nacional Medios Comunitarios, Libres y Alternativas*), the heroic COR (*Central Obrero Regional*) in El Alto and the entire popular movement in Bolivia.

The political impasse of the Morales government will need to be resolved by going beyond the legal possibilities. There is a popular left that lies further to the left of the recalcitrant vice-president Linera and the usual bureaucrats, who oscillate between the Latin American universities and governments with a veneer of nationalism. To the left of the MAS are the ex-guerrillas of the Movimiento Pachakuti, there is the El Alto Coordinación Regional, there are the social institutions such as Community Justice, there is an enormous organized social fabric that has no intention of consigning the country and the ancestral lands to the heirs of Cortés and Pizarro.

### **Another Battle of Ayacucho, another 1809 Uprising**

In 1809, the courage of the young Bolivians refused to recognize the demands of Charlotte Joaquina of Spain to govern the Viceroyalties. This decision marked the direction of the liberation of America in the heart of the Continent. The realistic response soon arrived when the governor of Potosí, loyal to the colonialists, occupied the rebel towns militarily. In 1824 in the Battle of Ayacucho, the reaction was defeated both politically and militarily. But political independence did not guarantee the liberation of the peoples or bring Popular Power, Self-Management and Political Federalism. Almost 190 years later, the same struggle is with us again. The right is fighting against the advancement of popular power, the transformation of the National State into a public space under the people's direct control, the dismantling of the bourgeois apparatus of social regulation. Today it is Bolivia's turn; in 2002 it was Venezuela's; three times over the past 11 years the people of Ecuador have rid themselves of a president; in December 2001 the Argentines defeated neo-liberalism and its plan to dismantle social life. Today the war of the Latin American peoples is marching towards their liberation in the Battle of the Bolivian Half Moon.

Defeat the oligarchy! Defeat the CIA, the DEA and the US Department of State!  
May the Bolivian people go beyond the limits of national government and advance along the road to Popular Power! All solidarity to the Bolivian people!  
The future of our brother country will be Quechua, Aymara, Guaraní, Tupi and popular or there will be no future!  
Latin America will never surrender! Popular Power, Social Self-Management and Political Federalism!

Porto Alegre, 13 September 2008

Federação Anarquista Gaúcha (FAG) – Fórum do Anarquismo Organizado (FAO) – in strategic alliance with the Uruguayan Anarchist Federation (FAU)

Translation by FdCA-International Relations Office <http://www.vermelhoenegro.org/fag>

# JERICHO AMNESTY MOVEMENT 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MARCH TO FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS AND P.O.W.s OCT. 10, 2008

by the Jericho Amnesty Movement

“One of the first steps we are going to become involved in as an Organization of Afro-American Unity will be to work with every leader and other organization in this country interested in a program designed to bring your and my problem before the United Nations ... We must take it out of the hands of the United States government.”

– Malcolm X, Speech at Founding Rally of the OAAU, June 28, 1964

Political prisoners represent a breadth of liberation and progressive movements that have worked over the years to expand justice and freedom for all in this country. Some have been held for more than 35 years, representing the continuing repression against our movements in this country. It is in the interest of all liberation, progressive and justice-minded groups and individuals to oppose the imprisonment of political activists, which forms a major prong of repression against movements in this country.

On October 10, 2008 we are commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jericho Amnesty Movement. We are organizing a National March to the United Nations here in New York City. This is a national effort to call attention to the existence of U.S.-held Political Prisoners & Prisoners of War. It is a national effort to redouble our efforts to build a stronger movement for the liberation of our freedom fighters. For more information, check [www.thejerichomovement.com](http://www.thejerichomovement.com), write to Jericho, PO Box 1272, New York NY 10013, or email [nationaljericho@gmail.com](mailto:nationaljericho@gmail.com).

We reach out to you specifically to join in the planning and organization of this historic event. If you are interested in joining us or learning how you can help, please respond to this email at [nycjericho@riseup.net](mailto:nycjericho@riseup.net) OR call 718-365-4407.

**FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS & PRISONERS OF WAR! --The Organizing Committees**

## The Perils of Black Political Power

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As we are on the eve of what may be the most powerful Black achievement in U.S. history, it would be well to examine the history of Black political leadership in this country.

Most historical researchers look to the 1967 election of Carl Stokes, (1927-1996), as Mayor of Cleveland, Ohio as the emergence of black political power in major American cities. Many Blacks saw this as the beginning of an age of freedom for our people.

From the 1960's to now, we most certainly have been disabused of that notion.

For while black political leadership has surely been a source of pride, they have not been a source of black political power.

That's because as agents of the States, they must defend the interests of the State, even when this conflicts with the interests of their people.

For example, let's look at the experience of Mayor Stokes. Shortly after taking office, Stokes appointed former U.S. Army Lt.-General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. as his public safety director (a kind of super police chief). Gen. Davis, fresh from the rigors of Vietnam, ordered 30,000 rounds of hollow point (or dum-dum) bullets, items in violation of the laws of war.

The object of his ire? The Cleveland branch of the Black Panther Party, and a local office of the National Committee to Combat Fascism, a Panther support group.

In Aug. 1970, Gen. Davis resigned from the post, and criticized Mayor Stokes for not giving him sufficient support in his battle against radicals (like the Panthers). Stokes, the more politically adroit of the two, made Davis look bad for ordering ammo which violated the Geneva Conventions, but Stokes' personal papers revealed meetings between the two men, and their agreement on dum-dums as appropriate arms to be used against Panthers.

Just because he was a Black mayor, didn't mean he wasn't dedicated to destroying a Black organization. Indeed, in times of Black uprising and mass discontent, Black mayors seem the perfect instrument of repression, for they dispel charges of racism.

If Barack Obama wins the White House, it will be a considerable political achievement. It will be made possible only by the votes of millions of whites, most especially younger voters. This does not diminish such an achievement, it just sharpens the nature of it.

But Black faces in high places does not freedom make.

Power is far more than presence. It is the ability to meet people's political objectives of freedom, independence and material well-being.

We are as far from those objectives as we were in 1967.

--(c) '08 maj

[Source: Nissim-Sabat, Ryan, "Panthers Set Up Shop in Cleveland," p. 111; from Judson L. Jeffries, ed., *COMRADES: Local History of the Black Panther Party* (Blomington/Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2007), pp. 89-144.]

Mumia's options have increasingly narrowed as many of his appeals have been rejected despite compelling new evidence of his innocence. Although his death penalty was thrown out, he remains on death row as PA appeals that reversal and Mumia seeks redress for his unjust conviction in the courts. The time is now to act for justice.

The Power of Truth is Final -- Free Mumia! PLEASE CONTACT:

**International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal**

P.O. Box 19709

Philadelphia, PA 19143

Phone: 215-476-8812/ Fax: 215-476-6180, Web: [www.freemumia.com](http://www.freemumia.com)

Send our brotha some LOVE and LIGHT at:

**Mumia Abu-Jamal**

AM 8335, SCI-Greene

175 Progress Drive

Waynesburg, PA 15370

WE WHO BELIEVE IN FREEDOM CAN \*NOT\* REST!!

[Check out Mumia's latest: *WE WANT FREEDOM: A Life in the Black Panther Party*, from South End Press (<http://www.southendpress.org>); 800-533-8478.]

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT U.N.

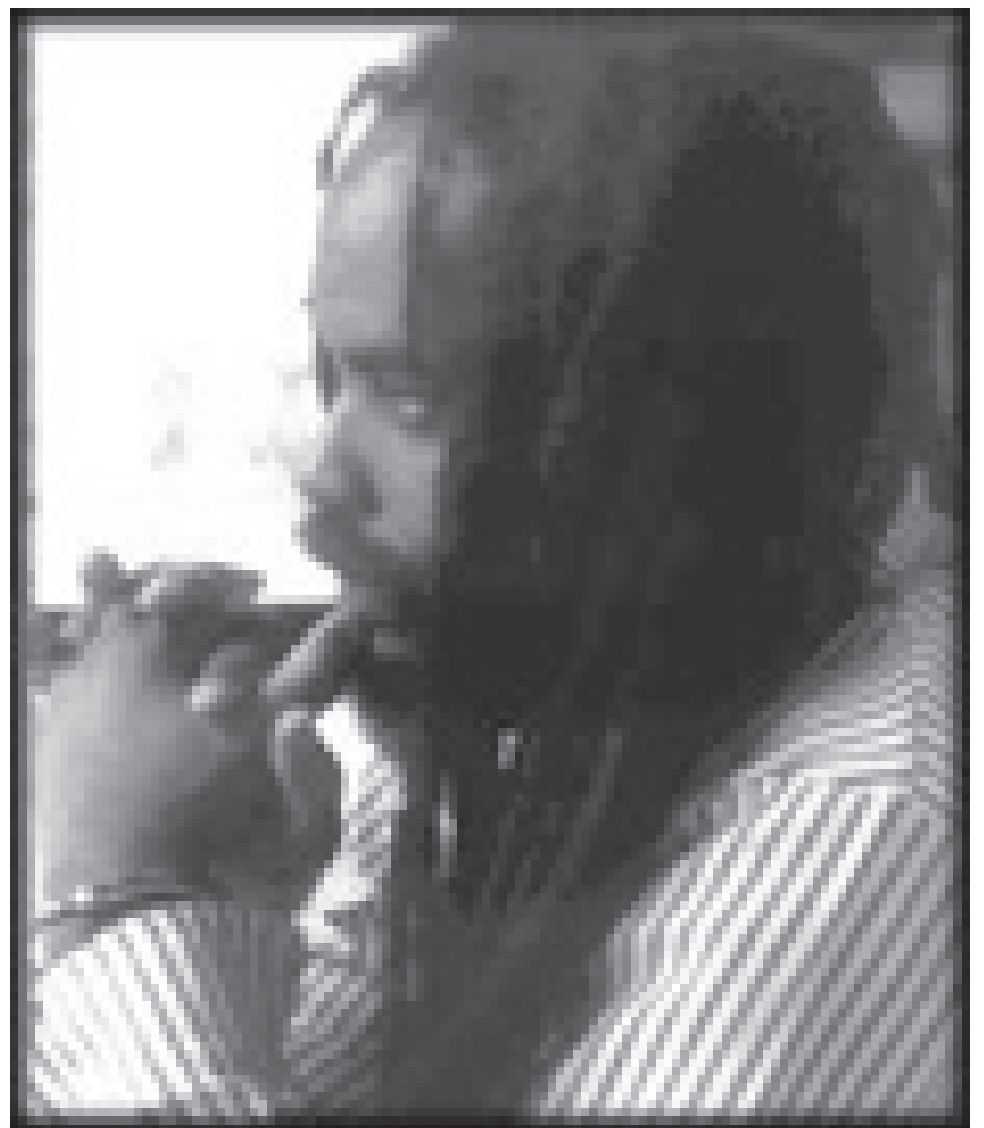
**Friday, October 10, 2008 @ 12 Noon**

**Delegation to and rally outside the United Nations:**

Moving Agitational Picket, 1st Ave. from 42nd to 47th St. Bring your banners, signs, noisemakers, drums, whistles, etc. Simultaneously, a delegation to the United Nations will be meeting inside the UN with international representatives regarding amnesty for political prisoners and POWs held by the U.S.

**Demand Freedom for Our Political Prisoners and POWs!**  
Friday evening concert to benefit the prisoners @ the Knitting Factory!

**Saturday, October 11, 2008 @ 12 Noon**, Rally at the Harlem State Office Building, 163 W. 125th Street (between Lenox & A.C. Powell). A march through Harlem begins at 1 p.m. A Closing Rally will be held at 3 p.m. at a site to be announced.



### ALLENSWORTH: AN AFRICAN TOWNSHIP IN CALIFORNIA

The book, *Allensworth, the Freedom Colony; an African American Township in California*, by Mrs. Alice Royal with Scott Braley and Mickey Ellinger, tells the story of the town and its citizens - its conception, its pioneers, the building of the park, the town of Allensworth today. There are dozens of historic photos from many personal archives. The book presents a little-known chapter of African American history.

Allensworth, 50 miles northwest of Bakersfield, was founded in 1908, and was the only town in California founded, funded, and governed by African Americans. Mrs. Royal was born in Allensworth in her grandparents' home in 1923, and has worked tirelessly to bring the history of Allensworth to public attention. In 1976, 240 acres of the old Allensworth downtown were declared a State Historic Park, and since then over 20 buildings have been rebuilt and furnished.

At the end of the 19th century, one of the forms of struggle for Black liberation was to build independent towns. Between 1877 and 1900, over 200,000 Blacks left the South to found more than a hundred autonomous communities. Allensworth was one of those towns, named for its founder, Allen Allensworth, whose own life was a journey from being enslaved to chaplain of the U.S. Army's (Black) 24th Infantry Regiment, retiring as a Lt. Colonel.

The town could have changed US history if its vision had been realized: African Americans managing their own affairs, farming, running independent businesses, providing housing for retired and active duty military people, shipping from the railroad depot at the edge of town, and building a trade college, a Tuskegee of the West. But within a few years the development company reneged on its agreement to provide water, the railroad station moved six miles north, and proposals to the State legislature to build the trade school were defeated. In 1914, Col. Allensworth was killed by two motorcyclists, in what was probably a racial attack.

The town held on for another decade, but the depression drove most of its residents into the cities. By the 1960's downtown Allensworth was abandoned or destroyed, and the rest of the town is now home to about a hundred families, mostly Latino farm laborers.

Heyday Books, the publisher, has priced it at \$17.95, inexpensive for a full color book. You can order it from [www.heydaybooks.com](http://www.heydaybooks.com), for it at your local bookstore is better yet.-- Scott Braley

# 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 aim to end all exploitation and oppression, and

## WE INTEND TO WIN!

ARA-LA\*POBOX 1055\*CULVERCITY CA 90232\*310-495-0299

antiracistaction\_la@yahoo.com\*www.antiracistaction.us

## ACTION ANTI-RACISTE

### LES 4 POINTS D'UNITE

**1. NOUS ALLONS OU ILS VONT:** Quand les fascistes s'organisent ou sont actifs en public, nous y sommes. Nous ne croyons pas que les ignorer ou se tenir loin d'eux soit une solution. Ne laissons jamais les nazis tenir la rue!

**2. NOUS NE NOUS APPUYONS PAS SUR LES FLICS OU LA JUSTICE POUR FAIRE NOTRE TRAVAIL:** Cela ne veut pas dire que nous n'allons jamais en cour. Mais nous comptons d'abord sur nous meme pour nous proteger et arreter les fascistes.

**3. DEFENSE ANTISECTAIRE DES AUTRES ANTIFASCISTES:** Le reseau AAR/ARA est compose de differents groupes et individus. Nous ne nous entendons pas sur tout et on ne s'empêche pas de confronter nos opinions. Mais dans ce mouvement, une attaque contre un est une attaque contre tous. Nous sommes solidaires.

**4. Nous supportons le droit a l'avortement et la liberte pour tous de choisir ce qu'ils veulent faire de leur peau.** AAR/ARA entend s'attaquer au dur travail qui permettra de construire un large et fort mouvement qui s'eleve contre le racisme, le sexism, l'anti-semitisme, l'homophobie, l'exploitation des classes ouvrières, la repression et la discrimination contre les demunis, les vieux, les jeunes et les plus opprimes du peuple.  
**NOUS VOULONS UNE SOCIETE SANS CLASSE  
ET NOUS ALLONS GAGNER!**

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