

# The Fundamentals of the Economy Are Unsound

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

First, the good news. The on-going global economic meltdown – in which every one of the “G20” countries has reduced its economic output except China, which is likely not far behind – has probably bought the planet a little time on the road to polar ice-cap meltdown. This is no small favor. The deepening depression is doing what the Kyoto Protocol couldn’t – reducing the carbon emissions of the advanced industrial countries. On the political-logistical front, the current crisis may deter, or at least defer, the planned assault by US imperialism on China. It may even increase the likelihood that the US Empire chooses to operate as gendarmes and junior partners to the Chinese, rather than to opt for liquidation and genocide of their advancing Asian adversary.

Furthermore, the evaporation of wealth that is taking place is a process in which the losers’ losses are not transferred on another set of books into gains by winners, but simply disappear. This is doing a lot to expose the emperor’s nudity even to the willfully blind, and to shake the faith of even the most trusting acolytes of the moneychangers in the temple. The absolute irrationality of capitalism/colonialism is being exposed once again for all to see. This tremendous object lesson by reality tremendously magnifies the heretofore puny efforts by critics and opponents of capitalism/colonialism to sharpen the irreconcilable contradiction between the Empire and the people it exploits and oppresses, and to fan the flames of resistance.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We must seize the time to deepen people’s visceral understanding of the illegitimacy of the social, political and economic system of colonial conquest and private expropriation of human creativity and the planet itself. We must build the organizational connections, conscious solidarity, and confidence in our own capacity that are necessary for the colonized and exploited to break free from the oppressor and build a new way of life.

However, the crisis of capitalism/colonialism also poses great dangers and punishing costs. The Empire continues to wage class/colonial war by every means in its power to place the burden of the crisis on those it exploits and oppresses. The bailouts, the cutbacks in education, health-care, social services, the foreclosures and evictions, the vast increase of public indebtedness to refinance the largest banks, brokers and insurance companies, all represent a very real transfer of real wealth to finance capital, the imposition of a new round of austerity. The full force of state repression necessary to enforce such measures is being prepared.

The Obama administration is normalizing the colonial wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and all the attendant violations of human rights, initiated under Bush. Has anyone in Congress or the White House, or even the ACLU, breathed a word about abolishing the USA PATRIOT Act or the Department of Homeland Security since Obama took office? Democrats in the House and Senate during this brief Democratic presidential tenure have already outdone either the Republican or Democratic Congresses under Bush in funding war, repression and Wall Street. As the French say, “*Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose*” – The more things “change,” the more they are the same thing.

Yet despite his heroic services to the Empire, Obama’s presidency has unleashed the floodgates of a new round of naked white supremacy and “nativist” reaction. Retail fascists of all descriptions have gotten a new lease on life as “dissidents.” Racist violence by state agents (police, ICE and the military) is reinforced by similar acts by anti-immigrant, anti-gay, anti-abortion, anti-Arab/Muslim, and anti-Black forces who think the state is not doing enough. They seek to push themselves to the head of a “populist” reaction to the futility of the economic recovery measures being undertaken, by scapegoating people of color and “liberals” (AKA “socialists”) for the ills of the Empire.

Finally, the unparalleled opportunity for authentically revolutionary resistance and social and economic transformation presented by the current crisis has dropped into the lap of a movement in the U.S. that is ill prepared to take advantage of it. A current generation is disjointed from the lessons of previous freedom fighters. This is a result of COINTELPRO, of the internal weaknesses of those previous struggles, and of the survival of wrongheaded nostrums that hamper strategic action. They were wrong when first formulated over a century ago and are even less well founded in terms of today’s realities. Capitalism will not fall of its own internal contradictions, nor will a new, classless society emerge naturally and automatically from the ruins of the old. If we are to topple and replace the current system, we must understand its true nature and the complicity with it even of those whom it oppresses and exploits.

## Free the Land and Your Ass Will Follow

What does the current crisis help us understand about the true nature of this system? First of all, it is no accident that the economic collapse developed and spread out of the real estate sector in the U.S. The transformation of land (that is, of nature) into capital, and of habitation into a commodity, through private expropriation of the commons and its extension from Europe around the globe through (settler) colonialism is at the base of the system we call capitalism. Ultimately, the empire is a house of cards based on the illegitimacy of its theft of the land.

The challenge to the Empire’s title to the land raised by the Hawaiians, the Mohawk, the peoples of Africa, the Aboriginal Australians and all other indigenous peoples undermines the concepts of private ownership of land and of Empire-state national boundaries. It exposes the theft and fraud on which the edifice of mortgage debt, credit default swaps and derivatives rested and ultimately collapsed.

## 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 have had to switch from bi-monthly to quarterly publication because of a lack of sufficient funds and staffing. **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. If you like what you’re reading –

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## Capitalism: Vampire with Bulimia

Second, the ever-greater concentration and centralization of wealth in the form of Capital (the crystallization of a social relationship between the exploiter and the exploited, the oppressor and the oppressed) could not transcend the inherent contradiction at the heart of the production system of capital. Capitalism requires endless growth, yet it cannot grow itself out of the contradiction of the private expropriation of the collective creative power of humanity. The more actual human labor and knowledge is embedded into capital, the less the rate of profit that can be extracted from that accumulation, even through imperial “super-exploitation.” However, this does not mean that capitalism will collapse from its inherent contradictions.

It means that capitalism and the class system that emerges from it must inevitably and periodically purge themselves, just as the system had previously gorged itself, by *extinguishing* vast amounts of the accumulated capital. Frequently this is done through war, and periodically it is done through economic contraction. That’s why the current obliteration of trillions of dollars of capital may be serving to forestall the military plans the Empire had been developing for the “destructive reduction of excess capacity” through war on China.

But we should not confuse the extinguishing of capital with the extinction of capitalism.

Whether in boom or in bust, capitalist colonialism entails the impoverishment and immiseration of the masses of people to extract the wealth of the rulers. The last decades have seen the incorporation and recolonization of the growing global population, including the billions of people in China, India and elsewhere in Asia. Along with this has come the looting of the social capital of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, as well as China, India and Africa. These have resulted in levels of capital accumulation unparalleled in human history. This has now in turn precipitated an equally vast and extremely steep economic contraction.

It should not surprise us that just as in post-Soviet Eastern Europe, both the accumulation and the contraction entail the elimination of the life savings and social security of hundreds of millions of people. Based on that experience, we can predict a near-genocidal reduction in life expectancy in both the metropolises and the periphery of the Empire.

The armed power of the state carried out the expropriation of the lands and conquests of the peoples on which the production system is based, and enforces the on-going social relationship that allows for the extraction of wealth from economic growth. How long will the power of the state enforce the continuing extraction and accumulation of wealth from economic contraction (which may involve fascist or totalitarian methods of rule as it did during the Great Depression)? *Until and unless* the forces of liberation can extract the land, and the people can extract ourselves, from that system, and smash that state apparatus of coercion.

Doing so requires a fundamental transformation in consciousness among the colonized, oppressed and exploited people – mental, spiritual and emotional decolonization. Identification with the oppressor must be replaced with conscious solidarity among working and subjugated peoples. Acceptance of the paradigm of natural resources, domination of nature, and endless growth must be shattered. It must be replaced with a holistic symbiotic relationship of humans with the rest of the natural order in an ecological economics based on a sustainable and reciprocal relationship of replenishment. Respect for the water cycle, the cycle of life, the subtle balance of nature in which all sustain all in a mutually beneficial manner must replace the “dog-eat-dog” mentality of capitalism.

Rush Limbaugh to the contrary, Obama is no socialist. But neither are most self-proclaimed socialists. The capitalist market offers no real solution for environmental devastation through its “cap and trade” mechanisms that price the “right” to pollute.

But neither does a socialism that simply tries to add a factor for the cost of pollution into the equations of “value” based strictly on labor power. Doing so simply accepts and internalizes the Empire’s capitalist conception of land, nature, as a factor of production. The biosphere, the soil, are both the products of and the substrate for life. They are, as the credit card advertisement has it, priceless. The land, no more than the air, the water or the sun, cannot be privatized or socialized as a factor of production. To do so simply sustains the capitalist and colonialist alienation of humanity from the rest of nature, and thus inevitably from its own creativity.

A socialism that predicates itself merely on the more equitable distribution of an ever-growing productivity is doomed to failure. It will be stillborn, incapable of uprooting Empire and Capital. Hopefully, the current lessons the Empire is teaching us will hasten the birth of a new paradigm of economic transformation from below, as people begin to build a new way of life in the rubble of the old. Our economic and interpersonal transformations will thus help initiate a process of physical and political decolonization in a positive feedback loop towards a way of life that restores the planet and allows for future generations to live sustainably in peace.

**Comments and responses are welcome!**

# Beyond Chris & Rihanna

A Females United For Action statement by Alex Pates (age 15) and Ansheera Ace Hilliard (age 17)

*As a Black woman/feminist, I must look about me with shocked anger, at the endless waste, suffocation of my sisters; the bitter suffering of hundreds of thousands of women who are the sole parents, the mothers of hundreds of thousands of children, women trapped by demeaning, lowest-paying occupations, the unemployed, the bullied, beaten, battered, the ridiculed, slandered, raped, and the sterilized, the lost millions and multi-millions of beautiful lives turned to ashes on the pyre of gender identity. I must look about myself and, as a Black feminist, I must ask myself: Where is the love?*

—“Where is the Love?” speech by June Jordan, at the 1978 National Black Writers Conference at Howard University

Recently, there has been a lot of gossip around the events surrounding the singers Chris Brown and Rihanna. They were said to be dating, but rumor had it they were in shaky water, cuddly one minute, and arguing the next. During the weekend of the 51st Grammy Awards, Rihanna checked herself into a hospital with bruises, bite marks, a black eye, and a bloody nose. Whether all the details being gossiped about in the press are fact or fiction, Rihanna did have physical evidence showing that she was abused. Many articles say that an eyewitness pointed to Rihanna’s boyfriend, Chris Brown, as the abuser. It has been confirmed that Chris Brown did turn himself in to the police, and was soon released on a \$50,000 bond. Rihanna’s representative said that she’s doing well and is thankful for the support that she is getting. According to the LAPD, “Chris Brown is under investigation for alleged domestic violence felony battery.” Recently Chris Brown released a statement. “Words cannot begin to express how sorry and saddened I am over what transpired,” wrote Brown. “I’m seeking the counseling of my pastor, my mother and other loved ones and I am committed, with God’s help, to emerging a better person.”

## BLAMING THE SURVIVOR

Most people look at the surface of this situation and ask questions like: Did Chris really beat Rihanna? What did she do to make him beat her? The media support this survivor-blaming analysis when they report the story. For example: “The fight was ignited when singer Chris Brown got a text message from another young woman.” And: “Sources allegedly close to Brown say that the fight leading to the domestic violence incident occurred because Rihanna gave Chris Brown herpes.” But let’s step back and look at it on a broader scale. Does a man ever have the right to beat a woman? Why is it that if a woman is beaten, she is always said to be the one that has provoked it? Why do so many abuse cases get overlooked or swept under the rug?

It’s important to remember that though women and queer people are the majority of violence survivors, men are survivors, too. According to the Berkeley Media Studies Group paper “Distracted by Drama: How California Newspapers Portray Intimate Partner Violence,” in many articles, the survivor of violence was blamed. The newspapers gave many excuses for why women were abused, shifting the responsibility for violence from perpetrators to survivors of violence. (They used the word “victim,” but we would use the word “survivor.”) For example:

- The victim may have contributed to the violence by wearing sexy, revealing clothing or flirting.
- The victim may have provoked the problem, perhaps by having been married many times, arguing, nagging, or flaunting success, etc.
- The victim may have contributed to the problem by being unfaithful or dating others.
- The victim may have contributed to the problem by staying with a violent partner, failing to cooperate with police, or continuing to see a violent partner.

Can you believe these excuses? Let’s take a closer look at this. If a woman cheats, wears sexy clothing, stays with the violent partner, becomes proud and speaks about her success, speaks her mind, or verbally challenges her partner, she is liable to get abused. Do you see any problems here? We do! What about the man? Can he wear sexy clothing? Can he date other women? Can he boast and talk about his success? Of course he can, because he is a man, right?

## MAKING EXCUSES FOR ABUSERS

Even when media doesn’t put all the blame on the survivors, they make excuses for abusers. In that same study by the Berkeley Media Studies Group, they also gathered data about ways that newspapers downplayed the abusers’ responsibility. These are ways newspapers framed their stories:

- The suspect may have acted violently at least partly due to drinking or drug abuse.
- The suspect may have acted violently at least out of love for a spouse or children, or fear of losing children.
- Violence arose in part from a flawed relationship with blame on both sides, e.g. they fought a lot.
- The suspect may have “snapped”, acting spontaneously and out of character.

Love does not mean abuse. There is no good excuse for abusing someone, sober or not.

## WHY DOESN’T SHE LEAVE?

When you see that a woman is in an abusive relationship,

one question that usually follows is “well, why doesn’t she leave him?” That is what we saw when we were reading about Rihanna and Chris Brown and their situation. On bossip.com, someone posted that, “She needed to leave him after the 1st punch. If she is still there after that then she deserves the 2nd 3rd and 4th.” We think that that is horrible and untrue. When a woman is in an abusive relationship, you never know her situation. She could be scared to leave him, especially if he is beating on her. Look at Rihanna and Chris. He choked her and knocked her out! Also we read that people think that Rihanna needs to get back with Chris and help salvage his career. We think that this is so untrue. We think that he is getting what he deserves. She shouldn’t have to feel responsible for what is happening to him. He needs to know that hitting a woman is unacceptable.

We hear so much of what will happen to Chris Brown’s reputation and career if these allegations are proven to be true. We hear how all Chris Brown’s sponsors and endorsements will back down, and how his entire career may go down the drain. Now we ask, what is going to happen to Rihanna? We never hear, on a well publicized scale, how this is going to affect her career. We do not even hear how she may be damaged mentally, physically, or emotionally after this incident of abuse. You would think that because she is a survivor of abuse, people would be concerned with her wellbeing. As far as Rihanna goes, this is what we do know. Last summer, Rihanna released a statement saying how she had started building her career from endorsements before she even released her hits. The *LA Times* recently reported that Rihanna had the reputation of representing “something very positive and in particular a strong female role model, and when she’s associated with a situation like this it can have an impact.” They quoted a marketing executive as predicting that companies are likely to shun her in the future.

## IT’S NOT JUST ABOUT CHRIS & RIHANNA

On September 17, 2008, 78% of identified domestic violence programs in the United States and territories, which totaled 1,553 programs, participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services, conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence. Every year, this organization conducts a 24-hour survey of domestic violence programs across the country to capture a day-in-the-life snapshot of domestic violence service provision in the United States. This is the data that was reported:

- Over 20,300 adults and children sought refuge in emergency shelter in a day.
- More than 10,000 adults and children were living in transitional housing.
- Over 30,300 adults and children received non-residential services, such as counseling, legal advocacy, and support groups.
- Over 21,500 domestic violence hotline calls were made.

On top of all of this, an additional 60,799 adults and children were provided additional domestic violence services. All of this data came from a 24-hour time period. 24 HOURS! If these are the numbers of women and children trying to escape violence in one day, imagine what those numbers would be in a week, a month, or horrifically, a year. This information shows how many people are seeking support services for domestic violence. But imagine how many more people never seek help. If you look at police reports of domestic violence, you only get part of the story. Women and genderqueer people, especially people of color or poor

people, are often overlooked in today’s society. When is the day going to come where violence against women and gender queer people is going to get the attention that it deserves?

## WHAT WE DEMAND

Every time there is a story like this we never hear anything from the survivor’s point of view. We really want to know how this is affecting Rihanna. What is life like for her now? We feel like in situations like this the young woman of color is always left out and forgotten about and more likely than not the blame is put on her. She is put to the side and told to get on with her life. But that is not so simple. There are scars that will never heal and wounds that will never close. We will probably never even get to sympathize with her. We want there to be something out there that tells the story from the perspective of the survivor. We think that when the media blames survivors, and questions their decision whether or not to leave, it can scare a survivor away from getting help, because it seems like nobody will sympathize with her or even believe her. Or even worse, she’ll be blamed for the abuse. We want young women and queer youth of color to have our voices in the media so that survivors don’t look bad and aren’t made to look like trash or like they deserve the violence.

Females United For Action, or FUFU, is a Chicago-based group of young women and genderqueer youth who are interested in doing healing and organizing around the issues that are most important to us. We are led by and made up mostly of young people of color. You might know us from our 25 Pegaditas campaign, where we went after the radio station La Ley for their offensive billboard ads where they promoted the abuse and mistreatment of young women of color. FUFU is part of a bigger organization, Women & Girls Collective Action Network. We use media justice work and other tactics to challenge violence against girls, women, and genderqueer people. We at Women and Girls CAN believe it is possible to end violence against women, girls, and genderqueer people. We believe in the power and knowledge of survivors and resisters of violence. We believe that communities have the potential and the responsibility to be more accountable to members of their community in ending violence against women, girls, and queers.

--You can learn more about us at:

[www.womenandgirlscan.org](http://www.womenandgirlscan.org) or

[www.myspace.com/femalesunitedforaction](http://www.myspace.com/femalesunitedforaction)

## More Queer People Murdered. Lesbian and Gay Groups Care Less

By Beau Vyne of BB! News

New Orleans Police discovered the bodies of three young, Black, Queer people in a 7th ward house in Dec. The three, one of whom was gender variant, were shot to death in the house sometime around 3 or 4am. Mainstream media and police are ignoring the fact that the three people were queer and possibly trans. Facebook groups devoted to the three and comments on news sites are raising questions by Queer people of color as to why large lesbian and gay groups are ignoring this. Many have wondered if there would be an LGBT white-out about such violence had the three been wealthy white gay businessmen.

The Lesbian and Gay movement is so focused on begging the state for a marriage license they seem to have forgotten everyone who is not well off and white. On Wednesday morning Jennifer Gale, a homeless transwoman, froze to death because no shelters would take her in. On Thursday 3 Queer people in New Orleans were shot and killed. On Friday, Join The Impact held silent candlelight vigils for their “Right” to Marry. Needless to say that in this struggle, white people have demonized communities of color for their alleged role in passing Prop 8. To many in the marriage movement, Queer People of Color and Trans people don’t even exist. It’s typical for White people in the marriage movement to claim that Trans people should wait til Gays get their rights. When violence is perpetrated against Queers of Color, HRC and other marriage-oriented organizations are typically silent. (E.g., the NJ Four, the 4 just killed in New Orleans, and virtually every other trans person or queer person of color). What’s more important: marriage, or housing for people freezing on the street? A slip of paper or the guarantee that when people in our community are shot point blank, we stand up and bash the fuck back?! Why aren’t we focusing on HIV/AIDS? If we put the energy and money wasted on the marriage movement into other projects, think what we could do. We could open queer/trans friendly spaces for the homeless. We could demand, or better, provide free quality healthcare to all people. Instead of collecting food and giving it to corrupt homophobic institutions, we could collect food and distribute it ourselves. We could confront classism, racism, sexism, and transphobia amongst LGBTQ people. All the while militantly raisin’ hell in the streets and disrupting business as usual, as every generation of Queers has since 1968. If we did all this, we’d see more change than Barack Obama has ever offered us. It is long past time that queer and trans people got our shit together. We’ve been fighting since birth; you’d think we’d know how to do it effectively.

# Anti-Racist Action - Now More than Ever!

## The Anti-Racist Movement, the ARA Phenomenon, and the Anti-Racist Action Network

by Auntie Fash

The movement against racism has been a mass reality since before the word racism was coined. It picked up speed and strength in the U.S. and around the world with the development of so-called "scientific racism" in the era of Social Darwinism that tried to justify colonies and Empire on the basis of alleged racial differences in intelligence, culture and "fitness." Some high water marks of the movement against racism have been the struggles to abolish the trans-Atlantic slave "trade" and slavery itself, as well as the movement after World War II to identify genocide as a crime against humanity and to adopt a universal standard of human rights. In the US, the civil rights struggle exemplified by Martin Luther King Jr., and the human rights/national independence struggle personified by Malcolm X, were succeeded by the Black Panther Party for Self Defense and similar liberation organizations and movements among other oppressed and colonized people. These cracked reactionary 'racial solidarity' among white people and launched a new era of anti-racist struggle among people privileged under a racist system. Racism, particularly white supremacy, has increasingly been discredited as an official ideology of state domination, as evidenced in the global struggle against apartheid-colonialism in South Africa. Yet institutionalized racism and white supremacy continue unabated. The need for continuing anti-racist struggle on a mass level and within the institutions of the society and economy, as well as government, is clear.

The fact that the election of a Black man to the U.S. Presidency does not mean "the end of racism" is evidenced by the decision of the Obama administration to boycott the Durban II World Conference Against Racism. Categorically opposed to reparations for slavery, the slave trade and colonialism, and desiring to spare Israel a confrontation over its oppression of the Palestinians, the US decided not to participate. Despite this US boycott, many who voted for Barack Obama for president saw it as a vote against racism. Anti-racist sentiment informs the education reform movement, labor struggles in the U.S., and the defense of migrant rights. It is an element within the environmental movement, focusing on justice; in struggles for prison abolition and to free political prisoners; in resistance to police abuse, medical neglect, insurance and real estate red-lining of communities of color. It takes many forms.

Since the "mainstreaming" of anti-racism in response to the struggles of the 50s, 60s and 70s, anti-racist activity has gone in two different directions. Increasingly, some elements have aligned with the state, becoming non-profit NGOs, providing intelligence and identifying the problem as one of "extremism." Others have continued to struggle against institutionalized racism as well as organized white supremacy. Sometimes this takes the form of educational work, consciousness raising and sensitivity training. But within this more grass-roots sector that sees racism operating within mainstream political and economic systems, a current of direct action has emerged. This more spontaneous, militant wing, often generated out of opposition to racist and neo-nazi violence and organizing, has mostly manifested itself in the phenomenon of Anti-Racist Action. Much like CopWatch and Food Not Bombs, the ARA phenomenon has arisen and sustained itself without hierarchical or centralized organization. Chapters spring up in response to local conditions, inspired by the existence of like-minded and similarly-named groups elsewhere in the US, Canada and globally.

Dozens and dozens of "chapters" of ARA have sprung up, most for relatively short duration, going back as far as the 1980s. They continue to do so as we near the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century because institutionalized and organized racism continue to be a problem. Within this direct action ARA phenomenon, the Anti-Racist Action Network has developed and sustained itself. ARA chapters affiliated with the Network share a few common principles, a loose-knit organizational association with a few key institutions such as the War Chest to defend anti-racists and anti-fascists targeted by the state and the ARA Store to spread anti-racist culture and merchandise, and the network website. More important ARA network members have vouched for each other and for affiliated chapters through common practice and direct personal contact. But because the network is not centralized or hierarchical, anyone anywhere can and does use the ARA name if they identify with the "brand" of militant, confrontational, counter-cultural direct action associated with "Anti-Racist Action" for more than two decades.

The ARA Network is interested in helping new chapters get started and getting

affiliated to the Network. We recognize that there is strength in numbers and that we have learned important lessons individually and collectively that can assist others. There is no sense in continually "re-inventing the wheel," or in stumbling into some of the same errors, such as sexism, which often plague ARA chapters. We understand that the necessity of fighting racism and fascism is growing, not diminishing. While we want to have fun and get to know each other better while challenging the fash, it is serious business. Here's a list of ARA chapters. The ones affiliated with and vouched by the network come first. The others we have been in some contact with or found via electronic means but for one reason or another they are not yet full network members.

We're open to your criticism and ideas. We encourage you to start a chapter of your own, to adopt the 4 Points of Unity that distinguish the ARA Network, and to get in touch with us (as well as with others who identify themselves with the ARA phenomenon and spirit). You'll be glad you did! And if you're in an existing chapter that has not yet affiliated with the network, we hope you will reconsider, reach out, and figure how we can work together to build the effectiveness, power and scope of Anti-Racist Action!

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TrentonARA@GMAIL.com

Kent Anti-Racist Action  
Box 8 Office of Campus Life  
226 Kent Student Center, KSU  
Kent, Ohio 44242  
KentAntiRacistAction@yahoo.com

Other chapters you can reach through the network web site, [www.antiracistaction.us](http://www.antiracistaction.us):

Anti-Racist Action Montreal

Baltimore Anti-Racist Action

Central Texas Anti-Racist Action

Cleveland Anti-Racist Action

Las Vegas Anti-Racist Action

Morgantown Anti-Racist Action

New Orleans Anti-Racist Action

October 15th Anarchist Collective (Toledo)

North Jersey METRO Anti-Racist Action  
PO Box 133, Rochelle Park, NJ  
07662

ARA chapters not vouched members of network yet:

www.anti-racist.org  
info@ANTI-RACIST.org

ARA Tuolumne County, PO Box 343,  
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Numerous ARA and RASH chapters and groups posting to social networking web sites such as FaceBook, MySpace, etc.

Rose City Antifa (Portland)  
971-533-7832  
fight\_them\_back@RISEUP.net

**Get in touch if you're building a chapter somewhere new!**

# 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 want a free classless society.

**WE INTEND TO WIN!**

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# Time to Foreclose on Colonialism: “Ceded Lands” & the State of Hawaii’s Claim to Perfect Title

In the recent Ceded Lands hearing at the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., on February 25, 2009, HI Attorney General Mark Bennett repeatedly asserted in the hearings that the State of Hawaii has perfect title to over one million acres of land. He claims that they were transferred to the US government upon annexation in 1898 and then transferred to the State of Hawaii in 1959. This is an incorrect statement. This falsehood, however, is not based on arguments for or against the highly charged Hawaiian sovereignty movement. Rather, it is a simple question to answer since ownership of land is not a matter of rhetoric but dependent on a sequence of deeds in a chain of title between the party granting title and the party receiving title. In fact, the term “perfect title” in real estate terms means “a title that is free of liens and legal questions as to ownership of the property. A requirement for the sale of real estate.”

What determines a perfect title is a chain of title that doesn’t have a missing link. Here in Hawaii all titles originate from the Hawaiian Kingdom government, whether by Royal Patents or Land Commission Awards. All subsequent conveyances between individuals are registered at the Bureau of Conveyances located at the corner of Punchbowl and Beretania Streets on the ground floor of the Kalanimoku Building. An example of a chain of title would be the Hawaiian Kingdom government to Joe Smith, Joe Smith to Alex White, Alex White to Alapa’i, Alapa’i to Yao Wong,

Yao Wong to Jonathan Judd. If there is no record of the deed between Alapa’i and Yao Wong, there is a break in the chain of title and therefore Jonathan Judd cannot claim to have a perfect title, which is a “requirement for the sale of real estate.”

For so-called Ceded Lands, being the Hawaiian Kingdom government and Crown lands, the chain of title is supposedly from the Hawaiian Kingdom government and Queen Lili’uokalani to the Provisional government, from the Provisional government to the Republic of Hawaii, then from the Republic of Hawaii to the United States, and finally from the United States to the State of Hawaii. In this chain, however, there are two missing links and not just one. On January 17, 1893, the Provisional government seized control of the Government and Crown lands without conveyance, but through revolt. After investigating the revolt, US President Grover Cleveland reported to Congress on December 18, 1893 that the Provisional government was neither de facto (a successful revolution), nor de jure (the lawful government), but self-proclaimed (committing the crime of high treason).

On November 13, 1893, U.S. Ambassador Albert Willis began to negotiate with the Queen, on behalf of President Cleveland, to grant amnesty for these criminals. An agreement to restore the Hawaiian Kingdom government was concluded with the condition that the Queen grant amnesty after the government was restored.

The other missing link is that there is no record of conveyance from the so-called Republic of Hawaii to the United States when the Hawaiian Islands were supposedly annexed in 1898. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the term cede is “to yield or give up by treaty.” In order for countries to cede territory to the United States it must be done by treaty, e.g. Louisiana Purchase from France in 1803, or the Alaska Purchase from Russia in 1867. For Hawaii, there are two *failed* treaties of cession, the first in 1893 and the other in 1897. The first was permanently withdrawn from the Senate by Pres. Cleveland in March 1893. The second was not ratified by the Senate, because of protests by the Queen and Hawaiian subjects. Instead, the US later enacted a Congressional joint resolution proclaiming that the

Hawaiian Islands had been annexed. The joint resolution of annexation is not a treaty or conveyance from the so-called Republic of Hawaii. It is a unilateral declaration that was used to seize and occupy the Hawaiian Islands during the Spanish-American War. The US today can no more annex Iraq by a joint resolution than it could annex the Hawaiian Islands by joint resolution in 1898. Congressional laws have no effect beyond the borders of the United States.

There is no record of a deed from the Hawaiian Kingdom government and the Queen to the Provisional government transferring Government and Crown lands. There is a break in the chain of title. Therefore the State of Hawaii cannot claim to have a perfect title, which is a “requirement for the sale of real estate.” As far as the term “Ceded lands,” there is no such thing, because the Government and Crown lands were never ceded, “yielded or given up by treaty” to the United States in the first place. Confusing occupation with cession is like confusing kidnapping with adoption. This isn’t a case of semantics, but ignorance of Hawaii’s legal and political history.

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*“The cause of Hawaii and independence is larger and dearer than the life of any man connected with it. Love of country is deep-seated in the breast of every Hawaiian, whatever his station.”*

- Queen Lili’uokalani

## Oldest Colony in the World: Human Rights and Self-Determination in Puerto Rico

By Lawrence Reyes, *Alianza Puertorriquena/Puerto Rican Alliance-Los Angeles*

Dr. Doris Pizarro and Ms. Emily Blais, Puerto Rican political, labor activists are touring the United States speaking about violations of Human Rights in Puerto Rico and the Summer 2009 discussion of Puerto Rico’s colonial status at the United Nations General Assembly. Puerto Rico, which was colonized by Christopher Columbus sailing for Spain, and eventually invaded and taken over by the United States in 1898, is the oldest continuous colony in the world. Spain, which had previously granted Puerto Rico autonomy, guaranteeing no changes in its status without consulting the Puerto Ricans themselves, ceded control to the U.S. as war booty following the so-called “Spanish-American War” (fought in Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines).

Under U.S. control, the Puerto Rican economy and agriculture were virtually destroyed, and more than 1/3 of the island nation’s population transferred to the U.S. Citizenship was imposed in order to use Puerto Ricans as cannon fodder in World War I and subsequently. Nearly 40% of Puerto Rican women of child-bearing age were sterilized, and Puerto Rican women were used as guinea pigs in the development of oral contraceptives. More recently, US-owned petrochemical plants have resulted in early-onset of sexual maturity in Puerto Rican girls.

The US military and every repressive agency of the US government, including the CIA, FBI and Naval Intelligence operate with impunity in Puerto Rico, and have been responsible for numerous killings of independence activists. Many independentistas have been held as political prisoners and even prisoners of war by the U.S.

In the 1950s, US air forces bombed Puerto Rico during the Jayuya uprising for independence. During the 1960s and 1970s, Puerto Rican pro-independence activists, teachers, lawyers, ministers, priests, community activists, labor leaders were targeted by both the FBI’s Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) and the Intelligence Division of the Police of Puerto Rico. In 1992, the Government of Puerto Rico, under orders of Puerto Rico’s Supreme Court, returned thousands of dossiers on 75,000 Puerto Ricans, 16,000 of which had detailed files from a few pages to thousands, to the victims. On December 14, 1999, colonial Governor Pedro Rossello issued an apology for the “injustice” that was committed for decades against pro-independence activists.

On September 23, 2005, the anniversary of Puerto Rico’s declaration of independence against Spain, pro-independence leader Filiberto Ojeda Rios of the clandestine *Macheteros* was killed by the FBI, Puerto Rico’s Department of Justice said that the FBI’s account of the events was not backed by the physical evidence. On February 10, 2006, dozens of Puerto Rican journalists, covering when FBI agents conducted a search of the house of a prominent University of Puerto Rico professor, were sprayed with pepper spray. Protests were filed by the Puerto Rican Journalists Association in

local and international human rights organizations. Puerto Rican activists in the US have been targeted for subpoenas and incarceration for refusal to testify in a series of Grand Jury witch-hunts. None of these measures are new or surprising. Puerto Rico was one of the original targets of COINTELPRO.

“The FBI is evaluating the possibility of instituting a program to disarticulate the organizations who are supporting independence for Puerto Rico . . . As we evaluate this matter, it is important that you are aware that we want to disarticulate the activities of these organizations, we are not merely interested in harassment . . . —J. Edgar Hoover memo to the San Juan office of the FBI, August 4, 1960.

For more information about Puerto Rico and the tour, check out :

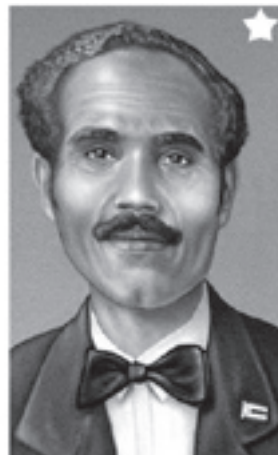
<http://www.cipdc.org/Welcome.htm> and

<http://www.pr-secretfiles.net/>

The Los Angeles event will be held on Friday, March 20, 6:30pm at the Centro Cultural Francisco Villa, 2100 S. Maple Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90011

For information contact [alianzapr@hotmail.com](mailto:alianzapr@hotmail.com), (310) 460-8586 or [UdbLA@aol.com](mailto:UdbLA@aol.com), (323) 602-3480.

The event is sponsored by Unión De Barrio, Comité de Mujeres Patricia Marín, and Puerto Rican Alliance; co-sponsored by All African Peoples Revolutionary Party, Anti-Racist Action-LA, ABCF Los Angeles, FUPA, KPFK-90.7 Outreach Committee, CSULB Chicano and Latino Studies, Brown Berets Los Angeles Autonomous Chapter, Union of Progressive Iranians, and many more...



**Don Pedro Albizu Campos, leader of the Puerto Rican independence struggle until his death in the 1950s after years as a political prisoner of US imperialism.**

# 15-year-old Chumash receives death threats in California

## Backlash to opposing mascots exposes racism in coastal CA town

By Brenda Norrell, Censored News, <http://www.bsnorrell.blogspot.com>

CARPINTERIA, Calif. – A 15-year-old Chumash youth received death threats because he urged his high school to eliminate sports mascots which are degrading and mock Native Americans and their culture. After those deaths were reported to police in this small coastal town, 90 minutes north of Los Angeles, police took no action and said the death threats were not credible.

Mark Anquoe, Kiowa from Oklahoma and member of the American Indian Movement, said it is inexcusable for police not to take death threats of a student seriously. Speaking on Red Town Radio, Anquoe said it is surprising with the number of shootings in schools in the United States, such as Columbine, that this death threat was not taken seriously. “You would think a death threat made to a student would be investigated and disciplinary action would be taken,” Anquoe said of the youth, whose name is not published here because he is a minor.

“The Indian people in this tiny community are vastly outnumbered. You saw this one young person stand up when he felt his people were being dishonored and this was the price that is being paid for speaking up,” Anquoe said. “It didn’t fall into their legal definition of what a threat is,” said Corine Fairbanks, Lakota and member of the American Indian Movement, living in Santa Barbara near Carpinteria. Fairbanks said the high school here was one of the last schools in the area to be desegregated. “It has a history of being really resistant to change.” The area is home to the Chumash people and the federally recognized Santa Ynez and state recognized Chumash near Malibu.

Fairbanks said the issues came to the forefront after the Chumash youth was disturbed by the mascot. When he received an assignment to explore “Be the change you want to see in the world,” he chose to take on the challenge of exposing the degrading images of sports mascots. After taking the issue to the school board, the “Warriors” mascot was removed. However, what followed revealed that the racism in the United States which is often believed to be confined to pockets, like in the south or in bordertowns around Indian Nations in the west, was manifested in this central coastal California.

A fierce reaction followed from some residents in the city of Carpinteria, joined by some alumni and some of the students. They formed an organization, “Warrior spirit will never die,” and opposed the young man’s efforts and those who supported him. The virulent opposition even went on to recall a school board member who

supported the Chumash youth. The organization followed with intimidation and harassment of the youth, his family and those who allied themselves.

Anquoe said what happened in Carpinteria makes it clear that some people believe that Indians should be involved only as a matter of token diversity, and only so long as they keep quiet. Indians are seen as a “good luck charm,” for a sport’s team. “As soon as a real flesh and blood Indian stands up and says, ‘I deserve to be treated like a human being.’ You see this huge crazy maniacal backlash from the citizens in this little town.” Anquoe said the backlash to this one young man standing up in Carpinteria has rallied widespread support from the American Indian Movement and AIM California Indians.

Red Town Radio host Brenda Golden, Muscogee from Oklahoma, sent a message to those who want to honor American Indian culture: Don’t make fun of our culture. Anquoe said young American Indians in public schools are affected deeply when they see signs that say “Scalp the Indians,” “Kill the Indians,” and watch Indians burned in effigy. Fairbanks said some in the area attempt to say they are honoring Native Americans with mascot images. She points out, however, that the war bonnet and other symbols are primarily Plains style, while the Chumash in this area have a different culture.

Fairbanks said public schools receive tax dollars to teach the truth. It is time to put away the Hollywood images and mascots, she said. “It doesn’t honor the Chumash people.” Further, Anquoe said the backlash has been so serious that Indian people have been forced to move out of town and move out of school districts. Similar situations are happening all over the country, as people put forth the images of “clown Indians.” Anquoe said one of the reasons that people in the United States put out these ridiculous images is because they do not want to deal with the “uncomfortable truths” of the real history of American Indians in this country.

With the image of mascots revealing this dark side of racism in America, Anquoe said Americans have to face and teach the real history of American Indians.

UPDATE: You can email the Carpinteria School Board members at: Terry Hickey Banks [tbanks@cusd.net](mailto:tbanks@cusd.net), Lou Panizzon [lpizzon@cusd.net](mailto:lpizzon@cusd.net), Alex Pulido [apulido@cusd.net](mailto:apulido@cusd.net), Leslie Dearth [ldearth@cusd.net](mailto:ldearth@cusd.net), Beverly Grant [bgrant@cusd.net](mailto:bgrant@cusd.net). The 1st three board members still seem to be in favor of retaining the imagery; the latter two already voted for removal. It will be reconsidered on March 17, 2009. [Ed. note: As we went to press, the board voted to remove the demeaning images.]

Listen to this radio show at Red Town Radio: <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/RedTownRadio>  
Press statements by Mark Anquoe and Corine Fairbanks:  
<http://bsnorrell.blogspot.com/search?q=Carpinteria>

## OBAMA SECRETLY “DAMNING” INDIGENOUS WATER

by Mohawk Nation News

On February 19, the U.S. “bucket brigade” of President Barack “Sorcerer’s-Apprentice” Obama and his entourage brought their empty pails to Canada. They want Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his buddies to start hauling Indigenous water to the States. They’re after our resources. You can bet on it! The following day Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar, will make an important announcement about their plan to steal our water.

Ripping off our water is another route of the “banksters” to bring in their New World Order. The multinationals know about the forthcoming water shortages because they’re stealing and polluting it. These water czars call themselves the “global guardians”. Part of their plan to control the world is by controlling the food supply through controlling the water supply. The UN calls water a human right. The fox wants to be in charge of the hen house in this “humanitarian crisis” of their making. Since colonization our Indigenous communities no longer have access to clean water. This doesn’t stop them from pilfering even more from us.

Barack Obama’s front man, Rahm Emanuel, is known as “the godfather of Great Lakes restoration”. The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence watershed is part of Haudenosaunee Territory, which we will never surrender. The Nanfan Treaty of 1701 prohibits interference by colonists and foreigners on the eastern half of Turtle Island. If they try to do this, they will be committing another violation of the Two Row Wampum Agreement with our people. They know very well that we never gave the colonists any rights over our land and resources. As the caretakers and trustees, we have the duty to protect the largest surface fresh water in the world. We Indigenous people are in their way but we are not going away.

Tom Kierans and GrandCo executives like Lou “Marine-Dead-Zone” Desmarais know that Indigenous resistance and sovereignty are the biggest obstacles to their greedy power seizing schemes. That’s why Indigenous people like the Algonquins are bombarded with agents from every direction who are trying to confuse and subvert them. The Grand Canal would pass through Algonquin territory in the Canadian Shield of Quebec and Ontario. Salazar of Colorado controls the tap. He lives near Canadian billionaire Maurice Strong who “owns” all that land on top of the largest aquifer in the US. Strong is high up the UN food chain. The resource grab will

be “legalized” by setting up a UN army to enforce their attempted domination over us and our water. Is it a coincidence that Maude Barlow of Ottawa has been appointed as the “UN Senior Advisor on Water?” Strong also works in Beijing with the Chinese. Huge water diversion projects will be done in China first where there are fewer environmental or labor laws. China is now building its South to North Water Diversion, the biggest engineering feat since the Three Gorges Dam built by Canadian companies. Half a million will be relocated.

One way colonists destroyed our environment was through water diversion to do stupid projects like growing rice in the desert. In the last few years, the salmon fishery on the Pacific Coast has been destroyed to provide water for commercial farmers. They were so focused on immediate profits that they didn’t heed the damage they were causing to the environment. Turtle Island comfortably supported a large Indigenous population before these catastrophic interventions by these European visitors. California has declared a state of emergency due to their four-year drought. Farmers have been denied water, forced to reduce crops or stop planting. Drought-stricken US and Mexico need irrigation to grow food for their market. The US has been turned into a desert. Now they want to mess up the north of Turtle Island.

The “Grand Canal” scheme is supposed to divert what they call “wasted” water that flows into James Bay. One of their hair-brained schemes is to block off James Bay and turn it into a fresh water lake which will be diverted to the U.S. Do they realize that they’ll kill everything in the ocean by making it too salty? These plans are made by money grubbers, not ecologists or Indigenous people. It was first proposed by Tom Kierans in 1959. It’s an old rotten idea, just like the opportunists who thought it up. Kierans has no qualifications as an environmentalist. He’s not looking at the inevitable environmental collapse he wants to perpetrate. Water will be sent for miles along concrete canals and aqueducts, sometimes uphill. Nuclear energy will be the horse and wagon for this job. The venture is backed by powerful dirty engineering companies like the UMA Group, the SNC Group, Bechtel Canada Ltd., Rousseau, Sauve and Warren Inc. Kierans says that Lavalin, Canada’s largest engineering company, is courting GrandCo, his company. Even Atomic Energy

of Canada Ltd. [AECL] hopes to supply CANDU reactors to power the pumps that will move up to 30 per cent of the discharge of the Great Lakes.

Canadian people aren’t opposing these schemes because they are too polite and too ignorant. They are also afraid the US will come and take the water by force anyway. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) and North American Union (NAU) are set up as “illegal diversions” for water theft. Don’t kid yourselves, the U.S. always behaved like vipers in these accords. When they want something, they take it. They don’t let the welfare of other people get in their way. Look at what happened in Iraq! The Great Lakes Water Compact recently approved by Congress and Parliament without any public discussion is a bucket full of holes. They’re going to need more than mops to swab up the environmental disaster they’re trying to commit.

The White Mountain Apaches in Arizona just signed a deal to get clean water. They were forced to give their water in the entire state so that 100s of golf courses could be kept green. Arizona “loaned” the Apaches the money for their water treatment facility and reservoir. Most Apaches weren’t consulted. The agreement isn’t legal. It’s just the usual colonial con job! These colonists have to sit with us on a “nation to nation” basis according to our treaties, agreements and inherent jurisdiction, not on a “government to government” basis as they recently stated. For us, we should resume growing corn, beans and squash, the sustainers of our ancestors. We need to stay closer to home to care for the earth and protect our communities from these water world vultures. These zany visitors from Europe and their passengers just can’t stop themselves from creating one calamity after another over here. Hey, Barack, Stephen, Ken, Maurice, Tom, Louis and Maude, why don’t you stand on the corner with your empty pails. We might put in a few drops of water to quench your thirst. But that’s all! [For more information and contacts, see background notes are at the end of this article.]

--Ia’koha:kowa & MNN Staff  
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Box 991, Kahnawake [Quebec, Canada] J0L 1B0.  
Nia:wen thank you very much.

# Pelican Bay SHU at 20: The Forgotten Struggle

by Daniel Perez

In the beginning... “Dry words on paper cannot adequately capture the senseless suffering and sometimes wretched misery that defendants’ unconstitutional practices leave in their wake.” –Hon. Thelton E. Henderson, judge in *Madrid v. Gomez* (N.D. Cal. 1995). And in *Madrid*, the court held that “the conditions of extreme social isolation and reduced environmental stimulation found in the P.B. (SHU) will likely inflict some degree of psychological trauma upon most inmates confined there for more than brief periods.”

Please note these words only described the first 5 years of the Pelican Bay Security Housing Unit, and were written and fully documented some 15 years before Abu-Ghraib shocked the conscience of the world (except for those in PB SHU). Yet shockingly the court ruled that “...conditions in PB (SHU) were not per se violative of the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment’s cruel and unusual punishment clause.” Thus spake Henderson. Fast forward (imagine a montage of the Rodney King beating, a train wreck and war porn) to the present.

Presently the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has reached a settlement in *Castillo v. Alameida Jr.*, which began in 1994. The settlement was intended to curb certain practices used by CDCR in validating and retaining prisoners indefinitely in PB (SHU) for being an associate or member of a prison gang.

For example:

Defendants agree that a prisoner’s talking to a validated gang member or associate in a (SHU) law library shall not be relied upon as a source item unless IGI (institutional gang investigator) or staff has an articulable basis for determining that the communication was related to gang activity.

Defendants agree that exclusive reliance on hearsay from a confidential source will not be used as a source item for validation.

Defendants agree that a prisoner will not receive an indeterminate (SHU) term as a validated gang member or associate without first being found to be a current active gang member or associate consistent with the procedural safeguards established in this agreement.

Defendants agree that “laundry lists” – that is when confidential informants, including through ‘debriefing,’ identify a prisoner as an associate or gang member by listing name(s) of inmate(s) without reference to any gang-related act – shall not be relied upon as a source item.

Confidential sources and their “debriefers” are like Winston Smith in Orwell’s “1984” who appeased his keepers by acknowledging that two plus two equals five.

Guantanamo Bay detention center was created after and in response to 9-11-2001, and since its beginning there has been a great world-wide debate, over not only the lawfulness of its existence and purpose, but also the conditions and interrogation practices to which the detainees were subjected. The US Supreme Court has heard numerous Guantanamo Bay cases (and ruled favorably to the prisoners) whereas *Madrid* and *Castillo* only reached the district court level before being watered down and forgotten (but not for lack of effort by Madrid or Castillo themselves. This is not to compare how terrible each is, or who deserves more to be shut down. Because nobody deserves Guantanamo Bay or Pelican Bay.

However, again the blatant hypocrisy must be confronted by “truth to power,” and to those who spread the false fear that if the detainees have access to the courts, they’ll suddenly be set free. PB (SHU) prisoners have had access to the courts for 20 years and the conditions and practices have only worsened.

In closing, I urge readers to please note ARA’s second point of unity: “...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.”

**Daniel Perez #C-16779, (SHU) d3-120,  
PO Box 7500, Crescent City CA 95532**

## FREE MUMIA AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!

On April 24-25, 2009, in Philadelphia, Oakland, New York, Seattle and other cities around the U.S., “More Than A Book Party” events will be held, marking the release of death-row journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal’s new book *Jailhouse Lawyers: Prisoners Defending Prisoners v. the U.S.A* published by City Lights.

For more info: <http://www.abu-jamal-news.com/>

**Friday, April 24th, 6:00 pm**

**Philadelphia, PA:** The Church of the Advocate, 1801 W Diamond St., Philadelphia PA  
<http://www.churchoftheadvocate.org/>

Speakers include: Paul Wright, editor of Prison Legal News; Amin, formerly “Harold Wilson,” the 122nd person freed from death row in the US; Ramona Africa, Minister of Communication for the MOVE Organization; Steven Hawkins, Executive Vice President of the NAACP, formerly with the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund; Linn Washington Jr., Philadelphia Tribune columnist, Temple University Professor of Journalism, author of *Black Judges on Justice: Perspectives from the Bench*; and I Abdul Jon, longtime supporter of MOVE and Mumia.

For more info:

<http://phillyimc.org/en/event-marking-mumia-abu-jamals-new-book-be-held-historic-church-advocate>

**Friday, April 24th, 6:30 pm**

**Oakland, CA:** Humanist Hall, 411 28th St., Oakland CA  
<http://www.humanisthall.org/>

City Lights in association with Prison Radio announce:

The Bay Area Book Party and Celebration for the Release of *Jailhouse Lawyers* by Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Join local and National authors and artists Angela Davis, Ed Mead, Avotjca, Killu Nyasha and many others as we celebrate Mumia’s life, his freedom and his birthday with a Book Release Party and Potluck dinner. Sponsored by City Lights, International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal, The National Lawyers Guild,

Prisoners of Conscience Committee, Prison Radio, among others.

Contact (415) 362-1901 for more info or e-mail [info@prisonradio.org](mailto:info@prisonradio.org).

**Saturday, April 25th, 4:00 pm**

**New York:** Riverside Church, 120th Street & Claremont Avenue, Rm 411, MLK Wing

Come celebrate a “More Than a Book Party” with the publication of Mumia’s new book on his 55th birthday. This program will be a tribute to the heroic brothers and sisters who risk so much and endure such vicious retribution for their fight for justice behind the walls of the hidden dungeons of the USA. Opening with a performance by THE IMPACT REPERTORY THEATRE, a politically conscious youth group, nominated for an Academy Award, created and coordinated by former political prisoner, “Panther 21” defendant, and now Chair of the Film Department at Columbia University, Jamal Joseph.

**SPEAKERS:** Video of Angela Davis; Eddie Ellis, former political prisoner/jailhouse lawyer, advocate for prisoners and their rights, host of WBAI’s weekly prisoner show, “On the Count;” Ramona Africa, former jailhouse lawyer, sole adult survivor of the 1985 government bombing of MOVE, Minister of Communication of MOVE, Brother Amin (Harold Wilson), former 16-year Death Row prisoner, at SCI Greene with Mumia, jailhouse lawyer exonerated through DNA testing; Paul Wright, editor, Prison Legal News; Mika’il Deveaux, spent 25 years in prison, co-founder of Citizens Against Recidivism, Inc., Director, Muslim Re-entry Initiative, former Soros Justice Fellow; Chairman Fred Hampton, Prisoners of Conscience Committee, former political prisoner, fighting activist, son of the martyred Black Panther Party leader, Fred Hampton, Sr. Pam Africa, International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, former political prisoner, and nonstop target of police repression. Question period, book signing, wine and cheese, etc.

Sponsored by: The Prison Ministry of the Riverside Church and the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC).

For more information: 212-330-8029 or [www.freemumia.com](http://www.freemumia.com)

**FREEMUMIA AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!**

## EMERGENCY AT BIG MOUNTAIN

Ladies & Gentlemen, the Old, the Young, the Coming Generation, and Relatives:

As we speak, there exists a state of fear and anxiety in a traditional community at Big Mountain in the heart of Black Mesa. And as we speak, the federally deputized officers of the BIA Hopi Agency Police and Rangers are patrolling this region where a few traditional elders continue to live and also resist federal mandates to relocate. I want to bring your attention to one particular situation that is an example of the widespread acts of injustice, human rights violation, religious intolerance, and threats of property destruction.

Dineh resister and elder, Pauline Whitesinger, has stood her ground since 1977 when the BIA tried to build a range unit fence within the lands partitioned to the neighboring tribe, the (modern and progressive) Hopis. Pauline still believes in the old ways by upholding aboriginal rights and treaty rights and because of BIA-Hopi restriction on new construction and her deteriorating ceremonial hogan, she replaced and rebuilt a new hogan. The BIA Indian police are constantly taken photographs of her residence, her neighbors that come to see her, her non-Indian volunteer helpers, and her grandchildren that come to visit. The police do not attempt to talk to her or answer to her

concerns and requests.

This area known as the Hopi Partitioned Lands still has Dineh residents and has been made an isolated area, and this is allowing the federal government to do as they please with these last, traditional peoples. Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr. has even made numerous comments that the Dineh resistance at Big Mountain “a lost cause and a closed case” meaning that these Dineh are to never be thought of, again. Meaning that these Dineh, who are my Big Mountain relatives, need to be erased from the state of the Navajo Nation and perhaps, Pauline is right when she says, “we are in way of Peabody, profit, revenues, and industrial jobs.”

The last few elder resisters and their few supporters (native or non-natives) will continue to provide the much needed humanitarian aide to our surviving history: traditional Dineh living and maintaining on their ancestral and sacred homelands. However, we all need to act in the best means possible and stop the daily Gestapo tactics and the potential demolition of a sacred hogan, or earth lodge. We all need to prevent any harm that may be committed on our elders or their helpers and most of all, prevent this growing hostility from getting out of hand.

All legal recourses are no longer an option since this is a challenge against a U.S. Executive Order, and The Peoples are the only option to bring about attention, focus and restoration.

I have attached a petition with addresses of officials and I am making a plea to you all, my relatives, to sign it and either send it directly to the listed officials or send them to the Black Mesa Indigenous Support. This situation is very urgent. These elders are very old now and they truly deserve much honor. They have lived in a way that, we or our future generations may never see humans live in this country. These traditional elders must live their naturally-given, old life in peace and harmony, Hozhon goh. Yaa’at’eeh goh. I apologize for the long list of officials, but it has become long because of so many years of ignorance and because certain, minor sectors of society believed that these Elders would have been defeated already. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely & In the Spirit of Chief Barboncito,  
Bahe Y. Katenay (Naabaahii Keediniihii) Dineh of Big Mountain

<http://blackmesais.org/2009/02/petition/>  
**TRADITIONAL ELDERS**

**Black Mesa Indigenous Support, P.O. Box 23501  
Flagstaff, Arizona 86002** [blackmesais@riseup.net](mailto:blackmesais@riseup.net)

# Tristan, US Solidarity Activist, Shot in the West Bank

By Starhawk

As I write, my friend Tristan lies hovering between life and death in an Israeli hospital, shot in the head, hit with a tear gas canister at a nonviolent demonstration in the West Bank town of Niâ'lin, protesting the wall the Israelis are building to isolate the West Bank.

Tristan is — I say “is” because I don’t dare slip into “was” for I fear that his hold on life is so tenuous, a shift into past tense might tip the balance -- Tristan is always there, at every demonstration, every mobilization, every fight for justice. He has always seemed fearless to me, with that young man’s confidence in his physical body that I now envy. He’s not so young — 38, still, I have 20 years on him. He seems young to me, strong, hardy, willing to sit in a tree for months to protect a grove of oaks at UC Berkeley, willing to camp out and show up early to clean out the convergence space, to eat bad pasta and dumpster-dived vegetables for weeks on end. Tall, slim, with dark eyes and olive skin, and a sharp, aquiline nose that starts off in one direction, then changes its mind and heads in another, he comes regularly to our rituals as well as actions, and helps build the North altar every year at the Spiral Dance. Soft-spoken, unassuming, more than anyone else I know he embodies a certain ideal of rigorous equality, never pulling rank nor trumpeting his considerable street cred, never asking for attention, simply showing up again and again and pitching in to get the work done.

Some ask, “Why don’t the Palestinians adopt the tactics of Martin Luther King or Gandhi?” And the answer is simply this — they do. For the last six years, they have mounted an ongoing campaign of civil resistance against Israel’s apartheid wall, which snakes through the West Bank, confiscating Palestinian farmland without compensation. The apartheid wall destroys the life and livelihoods of whole villages, literally setting in concrete the fractured geometry of Israel’s incursions, her illegal settlements that eat away the integrity of any potential Palestinian state. In the spring of 2004, when the army was just beginning to bulldoze olive orchards and scrape land bare, the villagers of Masâ’Ha set up a peace encampment on the wall’s route, inviting support from internationals and Israelis of good will. I’ve written elsewhere about what it was like to be there, encamped in one remaining grove under a full Passover moon, the despair of the bulldozers and the slim hope watching young Palestinians and Israelis sit together around a fire, sharing smokes and stories.

For six years, the movement has moved, from village to village, following the path of the wall. Six years of sparse and tiny victories - here and there, the route of the wall pushed back a few meters — but in Palestine, even the smallest victory stands out because it is so unusual, so different from the expected course of events. Like starving people who survive on crumbs, Palestinians nourish their determination to survive on even the smallest grains of success.

Mostly, I think, the movement survives because, in the face of horrific injustice, people need to do something. The vast majority of Palestinians do not want to strap on a suicide belt or pick up a gun. Contrary to all the stereotypes and racist assumptions, they don’t want to kill, or be killed, for that matter. But they want to do something.

## Shut Down The World Bank and IMF Meetings! April 24-26, Washington DC

Call to Action by Global Justice Action

As the economic crisis deepens and US foreclosure and unemployment rates climb, wealthy bankers and finance ministers from around the world scramble to resuscitate the financial institutions which created the crisis in the first place. This April the global elite, global financial institutions, and wealthy governments will meet to plan out billions of dollars worth of new economic bailouts for themselves while the nation’s poor, the poor of the world, and working people are left with only crumbs. Billions of dollars have already been handed over to CEOs and portfolio managers, while workers’ benefits and wages get slashed simultaneously. This trend will continue so long as capitalist expansion is prioritized over democratic principles, as long as profit is more important than people.

A better world is possible, a world in which our means of providing for ourselves is not controlled by a wealthy elite. A global order is possible in which the dignity of human life is placed above greed, and the living earth is shared and respected, rather than commodified and sold.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank are two institutions that enforce the hyper-capitalist status quo. Since 1980, these institutions have been forcing countries to adopt neoliberal structural adjustment policies of privatization, liberalization and budget cuts. These policies are directly to blame for much of the suffering in the current financial crisis and in its predecessors in Argentina, East Asia, Russia and elsewhere. Though the IMF itself is beginning to admit its mistakes – it recently recommended that countries abandon market fundamentalist policies to directly intervene in their economies – it’s understood that that advice only applies to the United States and European countries. Free markets for the poor and socialism for the rich is their mantra.

Neoliberal economics widens the sphere of imperialist capitalism, props up schemes of privatization, market liberalization and deregulation, and is ultimately to blame for this crisis. The World Bank and IMF are preeminent supranational institutions working to preserve the global financial order that puts profits, private gain, militarism, and gentrification over the needs of the people. Through their Structural Adjustment Programs - what they now refer to as “Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers” – these institutions have been destroying economies, local and global, for far too long. They must be stopped.

The World Bank and IMF will be holding their annual joint spring meetings April 24-26 in Washington DC. As they try to save themselves from global financial meltdown (or maybe just give themselves a few extra billion dollars) we all know better than to let them have all the fun without us. Join Global Justice Action to oppose these institutions, resist the dominant global order, and show that a better world is possible, free from neoliberalism, capitalism, and imperialism.

So they come to the wall. Children carry signs, women sit in front of bulldozers, men chant slogans and pray. Supported by a few internationals and a few determined Israelis, mostly ignored by the world’s media, they face tear gas, rubber bullets, real bullets, arrests and beatings. And if the demonstrations have not yet stopped the wall nor won over the hearts of Israelis, they have at least given strength to the hearts of Palestinians and those who continue to hope against hope for some ultimate justice.

For that, many have died. Tristan, young though he seems to me, has had more of a life than Arafat Ratab Khawaje, who was shot in the back by Israeli forces at a demonstration in Niâ’lin on December 28, 2008, when he was only twenty two. On the same day, Mohammed Khawaje, aged twenty, was shot in the head with live ammunition. Brain dead, he lingered for three days until he died in a Ramallah hospital. And they, so young, still had more life behind them than Yousef Amira, only 17, who was shot with rubber-coated still bullets on July 29, 2008. And yet they, too, seem ancient compared to Ahmed Mousa, only 10, shot in the forehead with live ammunition on July 29, 2008.

And that is just the body count of one village, one year. I grieve for Tristan because he’s a friend. I know him, I have marched with him shoulder to shoulder, sat in meetings with him, shared laughter and gossip and disbelief at the amount of liquor those British activists could put away. I feel for him in a way I should but can’t, for those who are just names to me.

But I know that others do. Some mother grieves for Ahmed Mousa and will never fully recover from his loss. Some brother mourns for Khawaje, some father cries and rages over Yousef Amira’s grave. Multiply that grief a thousand, thousand times and it explodes in rockets and suicide bombs. Yes, I also grieve for the Israeli victims of those bombs and rockets. But they cannot be stopped by walls, by land grabs and humiliations and injustice piled upon injustice, nor can they be silenced by the shrill voices who brand every critic of Israel an enemy.

Only justice can end the violence and bring peace and security to Palestinians and Israelis both. And it is time — it’s long past time — for the clamor of international voices to demand real justice, for the continued violence now jeopardizes all of us.

So, here’s what you can do. First, if you like most people are confused by the whole issue, educate yourself. Read a book — like Jimmy Carter’s *Israel: Peace, Not Apartheid* which is about as fair and balanced a recent history as you’ll find anywhere. Read my own website, [Starhawk.org](http://Starhawk.org) — on the Palestine page. Read the Israeli peace bloc — [gush-shalom.org](http://gush-shalom.org), or the reports from the International Solidarity Movement at [palsolidarity.org](http://palsolidarity.org). Speak out: Contact your representatives and demand a full, impartial investigation not just of Tristan’s shooting but of the ongoing Israeli violence against unarmed demonstrators. But more than that, speak out on the issue. We need to build a clamor that is too loud to be silenced by the pro-Israel lobby. So—write Obama a note. Go onto his web page and send him a note. Do this often! [http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/Support groups working for justice and peace](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/Support%20groups%20working%20for%20justice%20and%20peace) — like the International Solidarity Movement, like the many groups working on campaigns for divestment or boycotts of Israeli goods. Al Awda is a national Right to Return campaign: <http://www.al-awda.org/> Oberlin Students for Justice in Palestine has a great page of links: <http://www.oberlin.edu/stuorg/sfp/pages/links.html>

Global Justice Action embraces a diversity of tactics and will therefore be organizing a wide array of actions and events including coordinated direct actions and blockades, a mass permitted march, a people’s forum, and a few other surprises! GJA will host community education events, arts workshops, trainings, and direct action meetings in the months leading up to April for the purposes of putting together a well coordinated, effective, inclusive weekend of actions that will hamper the plans of the 10,000 delegates.

### Call For Unpermitted Marches From the SDAC

Some have been saying it all along... Some have just begun to see it in crisis...

A world in constant crisis, chained to desks and assembly lines, clear cuts and wastelands left in its wake... and they called it progress...and it collapsed. The suffering and disempowerment felt around the world everyday has become generalized in capitalist globalization. The age of globalization is the age of quiet total war.

They exploited us, traded us away, and left us to pick up the devastation. This world is a death machine, producing death and saying that this is what it means to have it work. Around the world thousands die everyday of preventable causes linked to poverty as we live lives of shallow material opulence obtained by selling our entire lives away in the channels opened up in some market, a market which guarantees poverty to most and complete objectification to the rest. And they say that it works... And it collapsed...

Work or starvation and for many work and starvation. They fenced off the world into property, fenced off the Earth itself and make us buy back the things which are already ours if we just decide to take them back. They made us dependent on markets for the basics of life... and it collapsed...

For all our subservience we got a world of poverty, wars, cultural meaninglessness, and wastelands. We are killing ourselves while we devastate the very planet which sustains us in a frantic race to the bottom. Capitalism is a race to see who can exploit more, extract more, cut more, and drill more, the fastest and make the most money doing it... and as a result the planet is a sinking ship. For every oil spill, every clear cut, every by-product dumped into a lake, every mountain blown up to mine coal, every war started, every sweatshop opened, every housing foreclosure, every lay-off, every eco-system leveled to build an upscale resort, every prisoner locked away, every culture destroyed, profit is made, and the drive for profit is destroying the planet while relegating us to lives slaved away in the offices, factories, and prisons of this world. And it collapsed... We are left to pay Wall Street for the money THEY lost and the lives THEY destroyed. We are left jobless, homeless, lifeless, and suffering the effects of THEIR failure, unless we refuse this fate.

We have a choice to make, stay on the sinking ship or turn and fight. The people that structure this destruction have faces and meetings. We intend to take the fight to them, and this is a fight for our world, a fight for our lives. April 24-26 in Washington DC the International Monetary Fund and World Bank will be holding their annual Spring meetings, and we will be in the streets waiting...

We are calling for a series of marches to shut down the meetings and strike a blow against the death machine, please “dress appropriately”. Kick it till it breaks!

**selfdescribedanarchist@riseup.net. SDAC: <http://selfdescribed.org/>  
Global Justice Action: <http://www.globaljusticeaction.org/>**

# The Border Crossed Us

You can't deal with the US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan unless you deal with the US war with Mexico. Oh, have you forgotten the US war of aggression against its neighbor? You can't understand U.S. history or change its reality without grappling with the U.S. theft in 1846 of almost half Mexico's territory. People at the time understood how pivotal the annexation of Texas and the subsequent invasion and conquest of northern Mexico was. Thoreau went to jail rather than pay the war tax imposed to finance the aggression, understanding it as a war to expand slavery. "The question," as he maintained to Emerson, was not what Thoreau was doing in jail, but what Ralph was "doing out there." Not enough to stop the war, apparently. Pres. Polk didn't ask Congress to declare war, as the Constitution theoretically required, but simply ordered troops into Mexican-claimed territory in order to provoke an incident justifying war. Then he called for an act recognizing that a state of war existed. Texas had been annexed not by international treaty but by a joint resolution of the House and Senate. Polk had his mind set on the conquest of California, which Mexico refused to sell, even before his inauguration. He had promised the Texans his support for annexation if they would claim the Rio Grande as their border, then based the US claim on the Texans' "pre-existing" claim. During his one term in Congress, Abraham Lincoln, whom Obama likes to invoke, condemned the imperial arrogance of Polk in launching the war. Lincoln saw through the pretext for the war – that Mexican forces had attacked the U.S. upon its own soil – as a mask on naked aggression. "It is a fact, that the US Army, in marching to the Rio Grande, marched into a peaceful Mexican settlement, and frightened the inhabitants from their homes and their crops," Lincoln declared. "That soil was not ours; Congress did not annex it." Lincoln voted for a resolution that declared the war unnecessary and accused Polk of violating the Constitution. His remarks are quite prophetic. "Allow the President to invade a neighboring nation whenever he shall deem it necessary to repel an invasion, and you allow him to do so whenever he may choose to say he deems it necessary. Study to see if you can fix any limit to his power, after having given him so much as you propose."

Lincoln continued, "The provision of the Constitution giving the war-making power to Congress was dictated by the following: kings had always been impoverishing their people in wars, pretending the good of the people was the object. But your view places our President where kings have always stood." Yet Lincoln didn't support legislation that would have prohibited acquiring territory from Mexico as part of a peace settlement. All too familiarly now, once the war was on, much of Congress and the country closed ranks behind the President and the war. Lincoln went on to vote for the appropriations necessary to finance the aggression, declaring that he felt bound to support U.S. troops in the field. This familiar excuse is evergreen, and particularly ironic because hundreds of said troops in fact deserted the U.S. Army deep inside Mexican territory, in the face of the highest casualty rates of any U.S. war, more than 150 of every 1000 soldiers.

Less scandalous but more ominous than Lincoln's opportunistic reversal on the war was the view of foreign correspondent and economic philosopher Karl Marx. Marx and his partner Engels felt that a Yankee victory over Mexico, by placing the resources of the territory under a more productive, efficient, Protestant and capitalist management, would hasten the arrival of socialism through the more rapid development of the means and relations of production. Engels wrote, in a polemic against anarchists: "Will Bakunin accuse the Americans of a 'war of conquest,' which, although it deals with a severe blow to his theory based on 'justice and humanity,' was nevertheless waged wholly and solely in the interest of civilization? Or is it perhaps unfortunate that splendid California has been taken away from the lazy Mexicans, who could not do anything with it? ...The energetic Yankees, by rapid exploitation of the California gold mines, will increase the means of circulation. In a few years [they] will concentrate a dense population and extensive trade at the most suitable places on the coast of the Pacific Ocean, create large cities, open up communications by steamship, construct a railway from New York to San Francisco, for the first time really open the Pacific Ocean to civilization, and for the third time in history give ... world trade a new direction. The 'independence' of a few Spanish Californians and Texans may suffer because of it; in some places 'justice' and other moral principles may be violated; but what does that matter to such facts of world-historic significance?" So, the Mexican War set the precedent for an immoral calculus inside the heart of "socialism," predicated on a prejudice for "progress" and "development," which actually favored empire and centralization of power. That laid the basis for the Bolsheviks to maintain the Czarist empire; for the French left to defend colonial wars in Algeria and Indochina; and for the Communist Party USA to declare that the imposition of "commonwealth" status on Puerto Rico resolved the issue of colonialism and made independence unnecessary.

The time for a thoroughgoing rectification is here. The basis of resisting wars of occupation, whether in Palestine, Iraq or Afghanistan, must be an uncompromising and consistent anti-colonialism. We will never defeat the war machine unless we begin the process of decolonization within the belly of the beast.--*Editor*

**Anti-Racist Action Publishers**  
**PO Box 1055**  
**Culver City CA 90232**

**First Class Postage**

# Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education

# TURNING THE TIDE

## End All Wars of Occupation!

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Time to Foreclose on Colonialism\*Obama and Indigenous Water  
Puerto Rico-The Oldest Colony\*Crisis at Big Mountain  
Mumia\*The Border Crossed Us\*Stop Violence Against Women**

**Volume 22 Number 2 \*ISSN 1082-6491 \*Spring 2009**  
**Anti-Racist Action-LA/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)**  
**PO Box 1055 \* Culver City CA 90232 \* 310-495-0299**  
**www.antiracistaction.us\*antiracistaction\_la@yahoo.com**