

Stop Police Abuse Now!

Build Inter-Communal Resistance and Community Self-Defense

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

One year ago, in a particularly blatant and unusually well-documented police killing, Oscar Grant was shot and killed in Oakland CA while restrained on a metro station, by Bay Area Rapid Transit cop Johannes Mehserle. Even though Grant was unarmed, posed no threat and was shot point blank, Mehserle was initially not even questioned, and was allowed to resign and leave the state until Oakland residents and others outraged by the killing and the injustice rose up in righteous anger. More than 100 people were arrested by Oakland cops, often brutally, but the forceful community resistance forced the Alameda County District Attorney to file murder charges against Mehserle, the first time a California cop has ever been charged with murder for an on-duty shooting. Fearing further uprisings in Oakland, particularly after another shooting incident in the city left Lovelle Mixon and two Oakland cops dead, the courts approved a change of venue to Los Angeles. The initial L.A. proceedings were scheduled, as we went to press, for January 8, 2010, and local activists (including ARA-LA) are organizing to seek justice for Oscar Grant. A demonstration is scheduled at Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center (commonly referred to as the Criminal

example, a higher percentage of Black drug-users and sellers are arrested than of white drug users and dealers. Of those arrested, a progressively higher percentage of Blacks are charged, tried, convicted and sentenced, and they are sentenced to longer terms. The vast increase in incarceration over the past 3 decades under the so-called “war on drugs,” and the regime of harsh sentencing and restricted parole, has come overwhelmingly at the expense of young people of color. The police and the courts serve as a transmission belt for such youth from under-funded schools to well-endowed prisons.

Thirty years ago, a book produced by the *Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional* (MLN), then a joint Puerto Rican-Mexicano organization, put forward an analysis of and solution to this problem in its very title: “Disarm the Police or Arm the People.” The MLN outlined the development of organized police forces in the U.S. to the class relations of colonialism and capitalism, beginning after the US war of aggression and conquest against Mexico. Then, vigilante forces of settlers were organized into the Texas and Arizona Rangers to subdue the resistance of the indigenous Mexicano population. After the Civil War, when slavery and private slave patrols were ended, the state assumed responsibility for control of the African population, and plantations were converted into (still-existing) prisons so that slavery could continue under the constitutionally authorized condition of “penal servitude.” Later still, after the Indian Wars, settlement of the interior, building of the transcontinental railroads and development of the industrial corporate capitalist system, urbanization and the importation of large numbers of Asian and eastern and southern European proletarians led to the development of city police forces. They augmented the private goon squads and Pinkertons hired by the robber barons to discipline their work force.

With the emergence of world-wide communist and anarchist labor movements in the early 20th Century, federal police forces (such as the FBI) were created. Mass white supremacist forces like the reborn Ku Klux Klan were deputized to police anti-war dissidents and labor organizers, and to “Americanize” the immigrant population. Later US victory in World War II, along with the victories of anti-colonial and anti-capitalist forces throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America, initiated the construction of a national security state apparatus both domestically and internationally. Despite this, the global upsurge in wars of national liberation sparked revolutionary anti-colonial liberation struggles inside the US and its own direct colonies, such as the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense and other Black liberation organizations, the Brown Berets and other Chicano/Mexicano nationalists, the Puerto Rican independence struggle, the American Indian Movement and Asian-American resistance forces. Mass urban rebellions and militant anti-war resistance overwhelmed local police forces and required the use of the National Guard and regular army forces inside US cities.

In response, the US launched COINTELPRO – a domestic war strategy for counter-insurgency that incorporated local police with the FBI in concerted military and psychological operations (psyops) against the Panthers and others. This was matched by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), which began the process of transferring military technology and operational principles to local cops under federal supervision. The success of those efforts at assassination, incarceration and destabilization of revolutionary organizers led to the on-going current mass incarceration known as the “prison-industrial complex” as a means

of social control. As the MLN explained in “Disarm the Police or Arm the People,” the Trilateral Commission identified an “excess of democracy” and the unacceptable demands of communities of color as the main threat to the Empire. Samuel Huntington, a chief theoretician of the Trilateral, prescribed “spatial deconcentration” to alleviate the threat of rebellion by the “inner city” by dispersing residents to the outskirts (as they are in Latin American, African and Asian cities). That approach is known more commonly as ethnic cleansing; more euphemistically as gentrification. Police carry out this strategy as an occupying army in communities of color and an internal border patrol in more privileged areas. When COINTELPRO killed and framed up Panthers like Bunchy Carter and Geronimo ji Jaga, prisons held fewer than 200,000 – today, over 2,200,000.

This is the social and historical context for the ongoing plague of racial profiling, police killings, militarization of ‘law enforcement,’ and mass criminalization and incarceration that is exemplified in the killing of Oscar Grant. It is vital to establish this context because despite decades of struggles for justice for particular victims and their families, despite lawsuits, civilian review boards, marches and street protests, this plague continues. That means we must understand more deeply the causes of the problem and the nature of the inadequacies of our existing strategies and tactics.

The roots of the problem in colonialism and capitalism mean that only revolutionary principles can guide us to a successful counter-strategy. It establishes a certain minimum tactical unity for effective action in any particular case and a direction for building strategically long term. First, we must understand that the problem is not simply ‘police misconduct,’ but the conduct of policing under policies set by civilian administrations and political authorities to enforce colonial and capitalist exploitation. “Good cops” and “bad cops” are simply roles played (often alternately by the same cops) to intimidate and control suspects. Community-oriented policing, far from being a solution, is in fact part of the same militarization, described by its advocates in police journals as “the domestic equivalent of psychological operations in the military, to control the thinking of the population and the enemy.”

Second, while demanding effective prosecution of killer cops and financial penalties for abusive and brutal cops, we must recognize that the criminal and civil courts have always been part of the problem. They rely on police “testilying” in their day to day operations, and serve to let both the individual cops and the system behind them off the hook. Cities count multi-million dollar settlements for police killings and abuse as the cost of doing business. Only concerted and unrelenting mass action and resistance can wring occasional victories and concessions from the prosecutors and judges, as the Oakland uprising forced the D.A. to file charges against Mehserle.

Third, we must take direct action on two fronts simultaneously. We need to organize the community to defend and protect itself against parasitism, domestic abuse and other ills that the police falsely claim to deal with, and to organize the community to defend and protect itself against police violence and abuse of power. Projects such as the Watch-a-Pig program of the Black Riders Liberation Party, and the various CopWatch projects that help the community lose their fear of the police, point the way. But they must be combined with resistance to gentrification, with gang peace truce efforts that engage youth in constructive social uplift and community building, with opposition to gang injunctions

Courts Building), 210 West Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. Proceedings in Dept. 104 - Judge Perry’s courtroom are scheduled for 8:30 AM. People will rally outside starting at 7:00 AM, with several people on line early to get inside the courtroom.

But as unprecedented as a murder prosecution of a cop may be in California, we should not imagine that justice can be found in the courts. Police killings and shootings, almost all carried out with impunity, are epidemic in the U.S. And despite a few highly publicized cases of officers being shot, the number of police fatalities and line-of-duty shootings, never very high, actually registered historic lows over the past year. Meanwhile, militarization of the police, as well as consolidation of local police forces into joint anti-terrorist task forces with the FBI and into federally-organized immigration-enforcement campaigns, continue. Moreover, the killings, typically of Black and indigenous/Mexicano youth by cops of European descent, are the tip of the iceberg, resting atop more numerous beatings, abuse, traffic stops and searches and stop-and-frisk operations on the streets. “Driving while Black (or Brown)” has become a cliché. Nor are the police alone involved in such racism and injustice. The entire criminal “justice” system is a colonial operation, in which, for

that criminalize the simple association of youth of color. The prison abolition movement must connect up with the opponents of police abuse.

On the basis of self-determination and respect for sovereignty, we must build intercommunal solidarity and resistance. People of European descent have a particular responsibility to take up that struggle, recognizing the leading role of colonized communities. But all oppressed people must come together whenever anyone is violated by the cops, regardless of nationality or ethnicity. The link must be made between the militarization of local police forces and of the border with the larger military focus of the Empire globally, and the use of coercive power to maintain domination and economic exploitation of land, labor and resources.

Finally, we must recognize that power concedes nothing without a struggle. The long and debilitating string of failures that have created a crippling sense of defeatism among many oppressed and colonized people inside the US dates from the defeats inflicted by COINTELPRO and the resulting on-going absence of any fighting capacity on the people’s side of the ledger. All our actions in confronting police abuse and other social, economic and even environmental ills, must be oriented at rebuilding the fighting capacity of the people..

The persistence of police abuse means it is systemic, and the whole society must be changed. We must strengthen our resistance and our resolve to see the struggle through to the final overthrow of a criminal, destructive system and its replacement with a cooperative, sustainable, decolonized social system. This will initiate a dynamic process that will begin to shift the balance of power between the forces of repression arrayed against us and the force of resistance, solidarity, unity and creativity that we marshal.

Based on these perspectives, ARA-LA is participating in the struggle for justice for Oscar Grant, whose killer will be tried right here in L.A. Such an effort must include defending those facing repression for resisting police abuse, such as JR Varney, Minister of Information of the Prisoners of Conscience Committee (POCC), who is still facing felony charges in Oakland for demanding justice for Oscar Grant. The ARA Network internationally has made organizing against police abuse, for justice for Oscar Grant and support for righteous resisters one of its top priorities for the year.

We must use the process of educating potential jurors here in L.A. about what is at stake in this case, and why Mehserle must be held accountable, as a means to a deeper, more committed organizing effort centered on alliance building and sinking roots into communities of resistance. Further court dates for Mehserle will be set following the initial January 8 appearance, and we must pack the courtroom (as well as for cases of political repression, where the people’s freedom fighters are facing charges).

To comment on this perspective or to join in the efforts, contact Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART) at **310-495-0299** or by email at **anti-racistaction_la@yahoo.com**. You can also check out the ***Stop Police Abuse Now!*** email list we moderate, with searchable archives of over a decade of cases of police killings, brutality and corruption and the fight-back against them. The list is available as a resource for sharing strategies and analyses as well: **http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stop-polabuse** to subscribe or check the archives.

Obama: Post-Imperial President?

[column written 12/24/09] © ‘09 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

According to a think-piece in a recent edition of *Newsweek*, President Barack H. Obama is a “post-imperial” leader, who seeks to bring ‘balance’ to foreign affairs, and a kind of disciplined realism to interactions with other nations. Of the similarities between the dreaded example of Vietnam and Afghanistan, [Obama claims] the analogy fails because unlike the fateful Diem brothers, Afghan leader Hamid Karzai was ‘elected’ and has significant support.

The [alleged failure of the] analogy is about as weak as wet toilet tissue.

To say Karzai was elected is to do extreme violence to the term. A recent piece in the *Washington Post* describes the Taliban as a virtual “shadow government” throughout much of the country, with dual governors, police chiefs, tax staffs and village governments.

Indeed, the *Post* reports Taliban control covers “broad swaths of the country, especially Afghanistan’s vast rural areas.” That’s because in many of these districts, the U.S. supported Karzai regime has no presence.

Back to the point -- a corrupt, foreign - supported government, which is widely seen as a puppet regime. Sound familiar?

Do we have another Vietnam?

Perhaps. The imperial press dutifully followed Pentagon and White House reports, painting Vietnam in rosy colors until the walls came tumbling down. They almost universally praised the Afghanistan and Iraq wars as righteous retribution. Why should they stop now?

As for ‘post-imperial’, this is a label that is about as ridiculous as post-racial! To invade countries that did nothing to it; to bomb and kill tens of thousands, to occupy and install puppets sounds pretty imperial to me.

And to add over 30,000 troops to this process means more of the same.

Is this ‘post-imperial?’

Hardly.

[Sources: Zakaria, Fareed, “The Post-Imperial Presidency”, *Newsweek*, (12/14/09), pp. 36-40; Witte, Griff, “The Shadow Government’s Clout: In Afghanistan, Taliban officials offer a concrete alternative:”, *Washington Post*, [Nat’l Wkly. Ed.], Dec.14-20, 2009, p.18]

Of Black Panthers, Prisons, and a Life in Struggle for Social Justice: Review of “The War Before”

By Dan Berger

Mention the Black Panthers, and Safiya Bukhari is probably not the first person most would think of. Yet perhaps she should be. Bukhari was a dedicated and tireless organizer from the time she joined the Black Panthers in the late 1960s until she passed away in 2003. Thanks to Laura Whitehorn, a former member of the Weather Underground and now a journalist, new generations of activists and others can learn of Bukhari through the essays, interviews and speeches Whitehorn has gathered in “The War Before: The True Life Story of Becoming a Black Panther, Keeping the Faith in Prison, & Fighting for Those Left Behind” (The Feminist Press, February 2010). The book also features an introduction by Angela Davis and an afterword by Mumia Abu-Jamal, each powerful statements in honor of Safiya’s lifelong commitments against mass incarceration and political repression.

Bukhari was not a “writer” per se, but a tireless grassroots organizer who occasionally wrote along the way. She joined the New York Black Panthers out of respect for the work it was doing feeding children in black communities and standing up to police violence. When state repression and internal strife debilitated the organization, Bukhari went underground with the Black Liberation Army. She served eight years in prison, escaping once for several months and using the subsequent trial as a platform from which to protest the medical neglect at the prison. Later in life, she was a leader in the black nationalist group the Republic of New Afrika. But above all, Bukhari was a stalwart organizer for political prisoners. She was a founder and leader of The Jericho Movement and of the NYC Free Mumia Coalition. Her unending commitment was legendary; Whitehorn describes how Bukhari consistently wrote, visited, and agitated on behalf of those people who found themselves imprisoned for their activism from the 1960s and 1970s. Whitehorn writes how she, too, met Safiya while in prison in the 1980s, knowing from that first meeting that she had made a lifelong friend. Bukhari’s unwavering dedication to freeing political prisoners, which she lived until her death at 53, raises the question of whether she worked too hard without taking care of her own health enough. Her daughter, Wonda Jones, describes seeing her mother’s tireless organizing, and how she went from resenting to respecting and admiring her mother’s efforts.

As the essays in this book eloquently reveal, she gave all of herself to the movement to free political prisoners. She was especially committed to her fellow Panthers, who have received the longest sentences and have faced the stiffest opposition to their release. She watched too many people die--from police violence, white racism (one of her BLA comrades was stomped to death in front of her by store owners in Virginia), intra-movement conflict, and imprisonment--to give anything less.

Safiya, as the book so perfectly captures, was an organizer, not a martyr. The book is a wonderful expression of all of these aspects of Safiya. It is, above all, a deeply human book. With passion and humility, Safiya was self-critical of how the movement’s weaknesses enabled state repression to tear the movement apart. She routinely challenged the ways radicals perpetuated such violence, rejecting self-righteousness or posturing while remaining focused on the greater violence carried out by the government. She asked that social justice movements get smarter and more compassionate in their efforts. In this book, as she did in life, she eloquently describes how the movement needed to overcome the post-traumatic stress disorder that was the legacy of the internal and external violence that befell the Panthers and other revolutionary movements. In capturing the arc of her life’s work, this book is a manual for long-haul radical struggle.

“The War Before” deserves a wide audience--by activists and academics, history buffs and political neophytes. It is a fantastic contribution to the burgeoning history of the Black Panthers, all too rare in its grassroots spirit and emphasis on (re)building movements strong enough not just to withstand state violence but to overcome our own egotism and individualism. It is one of few books by a woman member of the Black Panthers, and we see her trajectory from community service provider to revolutionary organizer, along with the many steps in between. Following Bukhari’s path enables us to tease out the legacy of the Black Panthers, from organizing inside America’s ever-growing prison system to the myriad battles for racial and economic justice in the twenty-first century. Her writings are both passionate and practical in their emphasis on movement building and freedom for those behind bars. To top it off, the stunning introduction by anti-racist activist and former political prisoner Laura Whitehorn brought tears to my eyes, weaving together her own story with Safiya’s in a model example of Amilcar Cabral’s dictum, “tell no lies, claim no easy victories.” Such expressions of honesty and humility are perhaps the greatest legacy that Bukhari, in her life and through this book, left us. **Author’s Website: www.danberger.org**
Save the date in the SF Bay Area for an event with Laura Whitehorn - March 11.

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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Rose City Antifa (Portland OR), 971-533-7832, fight_them_back@riseup.net
October 15th Anarchist Collective (Toledo OH), www.Myspace.com/OFAC
Philadelphia Anti-Racist Action, araphilly@gmail.com
Southern Ontario Anti-Racist Action, SouthernOntarioARA@gmail.com
Toronto Anti-Racist Action, www.ARAtoronto.org, info@aratoronto.org
Trenton Anti-Racist Action, TrentonARA@GMAIL.com

There are also not-yet or just-recently affiliated chapters in Minneapolis, Montreal, South and North Chicago, Nashville, Knoxville, Phoenix, Calgary, and elsewhere around the US and Canada.

If you are in a currently unaffiliated chapter of ARA, we urge you to endorse the Four Points of Unity and contact the chapter nearest you to develop a vouched face-to-face relationship.

Check out the Mid-Atlantic Anti-fascist connection’s “On The Prowl News” at: **ontheprowlnews.wordpress.com**

Subscribe to the new monthly ARA E-news by clicking the button on the network website at **<http://antiracistaction.org/?page=enews>**
Please send us your intel and scene reports on racist and anti-racist activity in your area. Post to the list (your posts will not be distributed to the general readership) or email **aranetnews@gmail.com**

Editors Note: The Black Riders Liberation Party (BRLP) is a decade-old revolutionary-minded political formation based primarily in the Los Angeles area and composed primarily of youth who were or could have been members of the Crips and Bloods. They sponsor political education, martial arts training, the Watch-a-Pig program and other survival programs in the African community, and espouse revolutionary African inter-communalism. Although ARA-LA/PART has struggles with a vanguard approach and democratic centralism, we believe the BRLP is an important component of the Black liberation struggle, and have worked to build material and political solidarity with them. The BRLP has been a leading force among Black youth in struggling to free political prisoners, building Black-Brown unity, opposing police abuse, and transforming criminal, tribal and colonial mentality among Black youth into revolutionary consciousness. At their request, we are reprinting in TTT several pieces from their *Black Rider* newspaper.—*Ed.*

THE BLACK RIDER CONNECTION

by the Black Riders Liberation Party

On a hot summer day in South Central Los Angeles, the news reports interrupt the normally scheduled program with an emergency flash across the TV screen. The notorious trigger-happy L.A.P.D has just gunned down another defenseless Black Child in the heart of the ghetto for nothing other than the officers falsely assumed that the supposed suspect had a gun. The extremely over-trained officers, well equipped with numerous lethal and ‘less-lethal’ high-powered weapons, have once again crossed the line and chosen to use deadly force against another Black civilian for being armed with a mere black cell phone. More information will be given during the News at eleven o’clock tonight....

The TV screen is immediately turned off. A highly secret organized system of communication begins. All across Southern California, formerly hostile young Black Men and Women from the lumpen proletariat warrior class brief to the unfortunate tragic incident. This so-called justifiable homicide is not justified to them. The war drums beat louder and louder in their hearts as the information is passed around and down the rigid chain of command. The unification that binds them together is a bulletproof Black Love forged and steeled from an extreme knowledge of their African history and the savage white racist, capitalist oppression of over four hundred years. Outwardly they appear to be the average Black youth, a part of the Hip-Hop generation, until put under close examination and you notice the military discipline in their every movement. Only when they shed the large triple X T-shirts and over sized baggy sagging pants into Black

berets, leather jackets, camouflage pants and big Black boots, will anyone really notice the last true armed Black Revolutionary organization in existence. This extraordinary transformation in their appearance will take place when the coded messages reach the bottom of the rank and file membership and flow back up to the top of the Democratic Centralized structure. These soldiers that embody the undying loyalty to the New Black Liberation struggle emerge out of the cars, homes, low-income projects and off of numerous street corners, clubs, and college campuses. All of them are hard-faced, tough, and love their people!

This display of both strength and unity among former gang banging young Blacks puzzles and shocks most people, especially the racist barbarian police in Los Angeles. This is something new, amazing, and powerful. They had a long history of dealing with Blacks, and nothing was better known than the disunity, misguided rage, and the animosity of one group toward another. How was this spectacle of over fifty different tribal groups forming solid disciplined lines of unity under a Black leader to be explained? All this is seen as a very real threat to the fascist Amerikkkan state. This massive Black unity will inspire massive Black Power, which, of course, will reduce white power and its domination of the whole earth. These formerly dis-unified individuals are now unified under my generalism leadership, and we have opened a full-scale war against the evil forces of oppression, aiming at driving them out of every Black community in the U.S. The successful Black Panther military tactics of Huey P. Newton and the great General George Jackson are remembered and followed: careful, unrushed training, and political organization; the secret movement of troops in small groups in different directions, all assembling in masses at a stated time and place near enemy pig station strongholds; then the swift-moving and generally surprise attacks by different people on different centers of white supremacy. These

operations took years of tedious and dangerous organizing in every hostile tribal area to build. The real reason for the series of victories over the racist enemy is our extensive knowledge of revolutions on the planet, and our battle tested make up from growing up in the Neo-Colonial “Concrete Vietnam” of the Los Angeles gangland. We are now reaching out to other young Black Africans throughout the world because we realize that L.A. is not the only Black community that has been ravaged by the government created Black on Black violent crime. The fascist state smuggled drugs and guns into our communities to keep us fighting each other instead of attacking them during the late 1960’s and early 1970’s. These were just some of the weapons and tactics used to destroy the old Black liberation movement.

We have begun to change the Black on Black violent criminal mentality into a Black Revolutionary mentality. The so-called Lost Generation X is now beginning to morph into Generation Malcolm X!



Members of the Black Riders Liberation Party (General T.A.C.O., center) with Chairman Fred Hampton Jr. of POCC.

“Black Riders’ Number One Rule”

Out of frustration and hopelessness, the Black Riders Liberation Party was formed by young Black people who have reached the point of no return. We refuse to be manipulated by the racist U.S. government and its ruling elite any longer into set tripping over blue or red. We no longer endorse patience and turning the other cheek. We assert the right of self-defense by whatever means necessary, and reserve the right of maximum retaliation against our racist oppressors, no matter what the odds against us are.

From here on in, if we must die anyway, we will die fighting back and will not die alone! We intend to see that our racist oppressors also get a taste of death! We will protect the Black Community with our minds, body, and soul.

All Power to the People!

Join in the fight for Justice for Oscar Grant, viciously killed by the pigs!
We are looking for a few good Black men and women to join now!

Contact us:
Black Riders Liberation Party (BRLP),
PO Box 8297, Los Angeles CA 90008;
323-901-3834
Email: blackriderliberationparty@yahoo.com;
online: www.myspace.com/BlackRiderLiberationParty
Join the Black Riders every Saturday on www.KillRadio.org,
Saturday nights from 9:00 to Midnight.



Open Letter to KPFK Management and Local Station Board on New Programming Schedule

We, the undersigned, strongly oppose the new programming schedule (“grid”) adopted by management without listener input. We urge that it swiftly be replaced by a grid adopted after broad consultation with listeners about how air-time on KPFK can best be used to fulfill the Pacifica mission and meet the communities’ needs. The new grid reflects an ongoing effort to sanitize the airwaves, silence voices of dissent outside the Democratic Party, and marginalize or eliminate grassroots community voices. It could only be imposed in the undemocratic way that it was, without engaging listeners, staff and stakeholders in an informed discussion about the station’s future.

The grid is expressly based on financial considerations and driven by Arbitron ratings, even though Arbitron is widely understood to misrepresent audiences, especially by under-counting young people and poor people, particularly people of color. The grid favors so-called “strip programming,” in which a single gate-keeping host controls a block of air-time throughout the week.

To carve out that time, management has dropped shows and cut others to 30 minutes, rescheduling them and others at hours unfamiliar to their audiences, and when talk-radio audiences are small.

THE GRASSROOTS KFPK COALITION PRESENTS: A TEACH-IN ON THE ECONOMY

Come learn about the roots of the world’s economic crisis, who profits from it, and who are its victims.

Learn about the fight back against foreclosures, evictions, unemployment, mis-education, and the plight of the immigrants and trade unions.

Learn how to stretch your dollars, grow your own food in the city, and

JOIN THE BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISRAEL

By BDS-LA

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) movement to challenge Israeli apartheid is gaining momentum throughout the world. BDS is a non-violent form of resistance, which played an instrumental role against South African apartheid in the 1980’s. It’s simple: as long as Israel continues to violate human rights, no city, state, country, or company should invest in or support it. This international non-violent human rights campaign initiated by all sectors of Palestinian society has three fundamental demands:

“We, representatives of Palestinian civil society, call upon ... people of conscience all over the world to impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era. We appeal to you to pressure your respective states to impose ... sanctions against Israel. We also invite conscientious Israelis to support this Call, for the sake of justice and genuine peace. These non-violent ... measures should be maintained until Israel meets its obligation to recognize the Palestinian people’s inalienable right to self-determination and ... complies with ... international law by:

“1. Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall;

“2. Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and

“3. Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194.”

The U.S. gives it \$3 billion in military aid per year and billions more in indirect economic aid. Those of us in the U.S. have a particular responsibility to do our part in advancing the BDS movement. In 2008, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mekorot, the Israeli National Water Company. Among other things, the MOU provides Israeli companies with access to DWP facilities for pilot projects, and forseees installation of Israeli technology in DWP facilities. Via this agreement, L.A. and its institutions legitimize, finance, and profit from Israel’s 60 year history of resource theft, and identifies L.A. as a “partner” of Israel. Join us in saying “no” to Los Angeles support of Israeli apartheid. Tell the Mayor and DWP: “No business with apartheid states.” Help build a grassroots anti-Apartheid movement in Los Angeles! Take part in the campaign to end Apartheid. Again.

For information, Email: bdsinla@gmail.com or on-line at www.bds-la.org/

Come hear Joshua Rubinstein of Amnesty International speak on the theme of **Troubled Waters: Israeli Denial of Water to Palestinians**

Sunday, January 10, 2010 from 3-5:00 PM at an event sponsored by BDS-LA, endorsed by Los Angeles Jews for Peace and Women In Black L.A.

Beyond Identity Politics

TTT editor Michael Novick has recently begun doing a series of monthly commentaries on “Freedom Now,” hosted by Dedon Kamathi of the All-African People’s Revolutionary Party on Pacifica radio’s KPFK-FM (90.7 in Los Angeles, 98.7 in Santa Barbara; online at KPFK.org) Tuesdays at 8:00 PM PST. Here is the edited text of December’s commentary.

In response to the revolutionary struggles of the 60s and 70s, a counter-revolutionary critique emerged within the left. It raised two dismissive slogans - “politically correct” and “identity politics” - to oppose self-critical struggle raised against racism and sexism within the left. People struggling for awareness of the dangers of national, racial and sexual chauvinism were attacked as being so-called “PC language police.” Struggles for self-determination and sovereignty by colonized people were put down as “identity politics” that created unnecessary division among supposed progressives.

The reactionary nature of those put-downs have been demonstrated as they were taken up as rallying cries by the establishment right and even racist forces. The first President Bush made “politically correct” a slogan in national politics, putting down student activists and sympathetic members of college faculty, as he launched a campaign to purge the left from the academy. And to this day, the Limbaughs and Glenn Becks, bombastic media racists who seem to have taken control of the Republican Party, dismiss struggles by African or indigenous people and opposition to anti-immigrant or anti-Mexican hysteria as “identity politics” or “the race card.”

The reduction of revolutionary anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist initiatives to language games or so-called “identity politics” is a manifestation of inadequate attempts by people of European descent to distance ourselves from the Empire and model ourselves on the liberation struggles of colonized people. In response to the Black liberation struggle, the Puerto Rican independence movement, the American Indian Movement for Native sovereignty, and the Chicano-Mexicano liberation movement, European-descent radicals started using the same terminology, such as women’s liberation, gay liberation, and later earth and animal liberation.

On the one hand, this impulse was a positive one - a movement towards resistance to the Empire. But it sidestepped the need for a self-critical examination of identification with the oppressor among people of European descent. It also undercut the anti-colonial nature of the struggles among oppressed people, reducing it to a question of personal identity and cultural differentiation. So this

Intentional or not, the effect of this kind of rescheduling will reduce the listeners of these shows, increasing the likelihood of their ultimate elimination. These changes in programming correspond to other undemocratic changes in management and governance, including illegal “suspensions” of elected board members and efforts to pre-ordain the outcome of searches for new management.

These changes cannot be allowed to stand, because they will doom KPFK to irrelevance at best, exactly at the moment when economic, political, social and environmental crises cry out for a medium of communication open to the struggles and resistance of popular movements. The forces seeking to neuter KPFK as a voice of community activism, cultural and ethnic diversity, and incisive dissent have already driven away more than 10,000 listeners in the past 4 years. The new grid and other purges could destroy the station entirely.

Please sign and circulate this petition and send in signatures to: grassrootskpfk@gmail.com

Thanks! Check us out on-line at www.takebackkpfk.org.

Anyone who wants to can sign their own name and make a comment here:

http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/KPFK_Programming_Changes/

Saturday, January 23, 2010

**at the Service Employees International Union hall
500 S. Virgil, Los Angeles 90020**

Excerpts from the 10.27.09 REPORT BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL:

ISRAEL RATIONS PALESTINIANS TO TRICKLE OF WATER

“Amnesty International has accused Israel of denying Palestinians the right to access adequate water by maintaining total control over the shared water resources and pursuing discriminatory policies. These unreasonably restrict the availability of water in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and prevent the Palestinians from developing an effective water infrastructure there.

“Israel allows the Palestinians access to only a fraction of the shared water resources, which lie mostly in the occupied West Bank, while the unlawful Israeli settlements there receive virtually unlimited supplies. In Gaza the Israeli blockade has made an already dire situation worse,” said Donatella Rovera, Amnesty International’s researcher on Israel and the OPT. In a new extensive report, Amnesty International revealed how Israel’s water policies and practices are denying Palestinians their right to water. Israel uses more than 80% of the water from the Mountain Aquifer, the main source of underground water in Israel and the OPT, while restricting Palestinians to a mere 20%. The Mountain Aquifer is the only source for water for Palestinians in the West Bank, but only one of several for Israel, which also takes for itself all the water available from the Jordan River. While Palestinian daily water consumption barely reaches 70 liters a day per person, Israeli daily consumption is more than 300 liters per day, four times as much. In some rural communities, Palestinians survive on barely 20 liters per day, the minimum amount required for domestic use in emergency situations. Some 180-200,000 Palestinians living in rural communities have no access to running water and the Israeli army often prevents them from even collecting rainwater. Numbering 450,000, the settlers use as much or more water than the Palestinian population of some 2.3 million. In the Gaza Strip, 90 to 95 per cent of the water from its only water resource, the Coastal Aquifer, is contaminated and unfit for human consumption. Yet, Israel doesn’t allow the transfer of water from the Mountain Aquifer in the West Bank to Gaza. Stringent restrictions imposed in recent years by Israel on the entry into Gaza of material and equipment necessary for the development and repair of infrastructure have caused further deterioration of the water and sanitation in Gaza, which has reached crisis point.”

Troubled Waters: Israeli Denial of Water to Palestinians

Sunday, January 10, 2010 from 3-5:00 PM at an event sponsored by BDS-LA, endorsed by Los Angeles Jews for Peace and Women In Black L.A.

Beyond Identity Politics

impulse to call all movements “liberation movements” took on a negative aspect. It liquidated the national and anti-colonial content of African, Asian and indigenous struggles.

It’s not merely a question of “identity” - and certainly not racial identity. It ‘s a question of identification with the oppressed and exploited rather than with the oppressor and exploiter. This is not a static matter determined by skin color, gender, sexual orientation, or economic status. It is a matter of dynamic struggle against the Empire, against capitalism and the class system, and for international solidarity.

Identities are created through economic and political struggle, class struggle. The so-called white identity or white nationalism in the US, for example, was created by liquidating the pre-existing national identities and class consciousness of working people of European descent. The Irish, Italians, Poles, Swedes and Bohemians, even the eastern European Jews and Slavs, were made “white” by obliterating their true histories and cultures. Those were replaced by an identification with the imperialist project of settler colonialism, the white supremacist doctrine of manifest destiny, land theft and genocide, and with the wages of whiteness created by an economic system built on the racial chattel slavery of Africans.

We must reject this not by creating a new cultural variant of white identity that is somehow “anti-racist,” but by deepening our understanding of our true histories, our recognition of class contradiction and class struggle as splitting issues among so-called ‘white’ people, and by strengthening our identification with all who resist colonialism, imperialism and capitalism.

Trying to appropriate Black or Native cultural identity, as many white folks uncomfortable with whiteness try to do, only worsens divisions. Instead, we need to question the cultural appropriation involved in the propaganda for us to identify with the Pilgrims. Conscious and conscientious people of European descent need to identify with Native resisters, with John Brown, who at Harper’s Ferry 150 years ago launched, with Black and white allies, an armed struggle against slavery, with Fred Hampton, a Black revolutionary who was assassinated for inspiring a revolutionary rainbow coalition 40 years ago, with the LA Panthers who learned from his murder to defend themselves against the LAPD. The way to cement that identification is by fighting back against the Empire. Allies, white or otherwise, are those who fight alongside each other against a common enemy and for a common purpose: to free us all.

Excerpts from:

Some Recent Actions of the Imaginary Party

Full text at: ontheoprowlnews.wordpress.com (*Ed. note:* We are printing this to stimulate discussion, particularly regarding elements of negativism, nihilism and individualism expressed. Respond to *TTT* and on the blogsite.)

“The Imaginary Party is the party that tends to become real, incessantly.”

On January 29, 2009, someone shot a laser beam at an airplane. It happened in a town called Burien, just north of the Sea-Tac International Airport. Twelve planes reported being hit with a beam of green light during their takeoff and landings. Police immediately began to look for perpetrators but were unable to find any suspects. After the initial burst of activity, there was a brief pause. But it continued to happen at random over the next month. In March 2009, police arrested Christopher C. Saunders for allegedly shining a green laser at a plane. The owners of a horse that Saunders had been shining a laser at during a party called and informed the police about his behavior. His bail was set at \$100,000. He was charged and held on suspicion of unlawful discharge of a laser. When questioned by police, Saunders told them he was at a party and was shining a green laser in multiple directions, including the neighbor’s horse. He told them there was a chance he may have ‘lasered’ an airplane by accident. Christopher Saunders was 24 at the time of his arrest. It’s easy to imagine the party in question. Everyone is 19-26 years of age and drunk. Most in the suburban house have jobs or are looking for one. None owns a house. They drink into the night as the planes fly overhead. Everyone surrounding Saunders watches him as he fires his laser. None know that in that moment, Christopher became a member of the unseen, invisible enemy of every system: the Imaginary Party.

“The adversary no longer carries the name enemy, but they are placed outside the law and outside of humanity for having disturbed the peace.”

For a brief moment, the system thought it had found the culprit. The media began to construct a story about a petty criminal who had been in jail twice before the age of 20,

dead. On October 8, 2009, a man walked into the Bank of America on the corner of 9th and A in downtown Tacoma. He carried a concealed pistol and a bag. He approached the teller and said he had a bomb that could be detonated by his partner outside. He gave the teller 10 minutes to fill a bag with cash. Another B of A employee called 911. When the man left with \$73,000, he found himself surrounded by police pointing their guns at him. Police found harmless blasting caps in the bag he brought into the bank. The man did not give his name to authorities. When they tried to fingerprint him, they found he had super-glued his fingertips. He told the police he was Patrick Henry, who coined the phrase “Give Me Liberty Or Give Me Death.” It took days for the authorities to learn his true identity.

His name is Michael Fenter. He is 40. The father of 3, he lived near Port Townsend at the Compass Rose Farm with his wife Kateen Fenter and her mother Bev. He graduated from the Northwest School Of Wooden Boatbuilding and worked at Sea Marine in Port Townsend. His wife says he is not much of a farmer, but his carpentry skills were put to use at the farm and the income from his job at Sea Marine kept the Compass Rose going. In January 2009, Fenter quit his job at Sea Marine and began working in Oregon. After the arrest of her husband, Kateen called his boss and confirmed that he had been coming in to work. When Michael was arrested, he was supposed to have been out of town, working at his job. Kateen first learned of his arrest when an FBI agent called her and said her husband had been arrested for bank robbery. The FBI accuse Michael Fenter of robbing a Seattle WaMu in Feb., a San Francisco B of A in Apr. and a Sacramento Wells Fargo in Aug. He is in the Sea-Tac Fed. Detention Ctr.

“There are moments one lives as if this world no longer existed. During these times, we see the despairing contractions of a world that knows it is to die.”

On October 22, 2009, a man walked through a parking lot near the city auto yards in Seattle. Some workers alarmed by his presence decided to approach. As they began to speak, an explosion happened. As the flames erupted, the man sprinted away. Shortly after, there were more explosions. Later, authorities were to find an American flag at the scene, along with a note condemning the police and alluding to future attacks. This took place on the national day against police brutality. The Seattle PD kept the warning of future attacks a secret, even from its own officers. On Halloween, a white car drifted down the streets of the Central District aimlessly, the driver looking for something. Up ahead, the driver spotted a police cruiser that was pulled over, its light flashing. The car pulled up alongside the cruiser. A muzzle flash lit up the white car. One cop died and the white car sped away, leaving behind an American flag. The police and mainstream-media immediately classified the murder as an assassination. What information was available was televised across the entire region. Details emerged about the note left at the scene of the car arson. A manhunt began for the assassin. The description of a white car was made public and the mainstream-media were filled with lamentations over the dead ‘hero.’

Christopher Saunders of Burien, 24. The system was ready to turn him into an example of what would happen to others. But after holding him for 3 days, the police released Saunders due to lack of concrete evidence. Despite the arrest and release of Saunders, the lasers continued to hit airplanes. When Saunders was exonerated, the system was left with nothing but an invisible enemy shooting lasers into the sky. To this day, no one has been arrested and no planes have crashed. During the initial hysteria, the authorities stated that anyone shooting a laser at a plane would be charged as a terrorist. If anyone were caught, it’d be up to them to prove they weren’t terrorists. The neighborhoods around Sea-Tac International Airport are vast expanses of boredom. There’s little to do besides go from house to job, job to store, store to house, house to bar, bar to house. A 16-year-old boy and girl consumed with boredom and possessing a laser-pen might look up and see the familiar airplanes flying above. It would only be a matter of time before they decided to use their lasers, especially on the planes, which never stop arriving and departing. To the teenagers, this is a playful act. To the system, it’s an act of war. The war we see everyday is between two forces. One is real, with its own police, media and army. The other is imaginary and nonexistent, composed of individuals who don’t know they’re part of it. The Imaginary Party does not exist. And yet it continues to act.

“Those who do not understand war do not understand their own times.”

Downtown Tacoma is perched atop a hill overlooking the water. Its skyscrapers hang over the Port of Tacoma and the Northwest Detention Center for illegal immigrants. On weekdays, during lunch and after 5 pm, Downtown is bustling with activity. But in the late hours and on the weekends, there’s hardly any activity. The streets are lifeless and

during their breaks. On November 29, four Lakewood police officers entered the Forza and ordered coffee. They sat down at a table together and began working on their laptops. A man in jeans and a black jacket walked into the Forza. He walked past the cops and waited in line for coffee. When he reached the register, he opened his jacket, revealing a gun. The baristas ran away as he turned and opened fire. He killed two cops immediately. The two remaining cops stood up. He shot one of them while the other drew their weapon. The assassin and the last remaining cop struggled, pushing and wrestling each other until they were outside the coffee shop. In the midst of the struggle, the assassin broke free from the cop’s grip. The cop shot the assassin, the assassin shot the cop. The cop died. The assassin fled to the south with a bullet wound below his navel.

There is nothing connecting these incidents together. No one will be able to discover a secret code being passed between the actors in these incidents. There are no secret communiques or instructions from a central committee. But taken together, they reveal how only a select few actors are necessary to throw authority into a blind, helpless spasm. What is held in common between the actors described above is a potent disregard for everything. Shooting a laser at a plane meant nothing, nor did blowing up police cruisers or shooting cops. What once mattered stopped mattering to them. And in their acts of negation, their acts suddenly becoming positive. They robbed for their family and their farm. They ran to stay alive. They killed to avenge a 14-year-old girl. They shot lasers for fun. In their disregard, they joined the Imaginary Party.

The Imaginary Party can’t be attacked by police, because it doesn’t exist. It is made up of every actor who, intentionally or not, undermines authority at every level. When they are caught, actors in the Imaginary Party are made into isolated individuals, insane deviants who are to be quickly disposed of. Authority cannot admit the existence of the Imaginary Party for one reason: the Imaginary Party is just another word for the population. And the population is never allowed to be against authority. The media will acknowledge the absolute positivity of authority, never the silent negativity of the population. The countless, unseen people who die among the population do not have front page funerals. Only that which is sanctified and approved by authority is given the title of ‘hero’ and remembered as such. Everything else is left to obscurity and isolation.

There has always been a constant level of activity from the Imaginary Party, but recent events indicate that something has altered. The level of disregard in the actors is increasing, just as the fear in the guardians of order is increasing. Everything is proving to be fragile and easily thrown into disorder. This fragility is televised on the nightly news and printed on the front page of the newspaper. With each new incident, power reveals its desperation, weakness and fear. It knows that its worst enemy, the Imaginary Party, lives in its own body, growing like a translucent cancer.

-Olympia, WA December 4, 2009

“It is a constant temptation to conceive the existence of the Imaginary Party under the familiar species of the guerrilla, of civil war, of a conflict without a precise front or a declaration of hostilities, without armistice or peace treaty.”

The same day, in Tukwila just south of Seattle, three cops approached an apartment complex. They were responding to a tip that a white Datsun had been parked in front of the complex and had recently been covered in a tarp. The tip also revealed that the owner of the car had been acting strangely. The cops waited to ambush the owner of the car. When he appeared, they approached. He immediately fled, stopped and pointed a handgun at them. When he pulled the trigger, there was no discharge. The man continued running and was soon shot, one of the bullets passing through his mouth. He did not die, but is now paralyzed from the waist down. His name is Christopher Monfort. He’s 41. He most recently worked as a security guard. His boss said that he had been a diligent worker. Christopher had attended community college just south of the airport. When he began, he had aspirations of being a police officer. He enrolled in the Administration of Justice program and later went on to get his BA at UW in March 2008. While there, he began working on a program to encourage jurors to find black defendants not guilty for any non-violent crimes. He later worked with incarcerated youth at juvenile hall, teaching them about the criminal justice system and encouraging them to remain outside it. Everyone who knew Christopher described him as outgoing and deeply concerned with the erosion of citizen’s liberties. Police searched his apartment. They found the walls lined with stacks of tires, as if he’d been expecting a shootout. Two rifles and several bombs were also inside, leading authorities to believe that, had Christopher not been discovered, he would have struck more targets.

When the full text of the note he left at the scene of the car bombings was released, the public discovered that Christopher began his actions in response to the beating of a 14 year-old girl in the Sea-Tac jail by a King County Sheriff named Pail Schene, while Dep. Travis Bruner watched, doing nothing to stop his partner. The beating had been caught on security camera and then released to the public several months after the fact. The sheriff who beat her was fired, the other was punished but remained with the King County Sheriff. The note that Monfort left near the bombed vehicles reads: “These Deaths are dedicated to Deputy Travis Bruner, he stood by and did nothing, as Deputy Paul Schene Brutally beat an Unarmed 14 year old Girl in their care. You Swear a Solemn Oath to Protect US from All Harm, That includes You! Start policing each other or get ready to attend a lot of police funerals. We Pay your bills. You work for US.”

“It is that which each day makes more visible the failures of society. But one keeps from pronouncing its name...as one fears to invoke the devil.”

A mile south of Tacoma, near the northern edge of Fort Lewis, is the McChord Air Force Base. Every day, military planes take off and arrive in an endless circle. Across the street from the base is the Forza coffee shop, a regular haunt of cops from Tacoma and Lakewood. They arrive in groups, order coffee and browse the web

All quotations are from the *Theses On The Imaginary Party* (1999) by Tiqqun. <http://zinelibrary.info/theses-imaginary-party>

Call to the Peoples of México to Organize the Revocation of the Presidency of Felipe Calderón On the Eve of the 2010 Bicentennial of Mexican Independence, an Organizing Campaign Begins

<http://www.narconews.com/Issue62/article3956.html>

Our nation is confronting a crisis on par with those that gave birth to the War of Independence, The Reformation wars and the Mexican Revolution. Just as was the case then, this is an overarching crisis in our economy, politics and culture. It calls into question the future of the Mexican Nation and its people. In the political schemes of the great domestic and foreign capitalists, we lack hope. The Mexican people do not have a place in this world of neo-liberal globalization except as pariahs and a disposable labor force.

Given these circumstances, we need a patriotic transformation and democratization of the political system, the economy and the culture that can confront this deep crisis of our country and the problems of the Mexican people. We need a transformation that will push out the bourgeois oligarchy and the political class that governs the state and the imperialist domain of Mexico. There is a need to construct a new majority that includes all of the patriotic forces that will install a new government and a new state. A new majority that is capable of taking back control and ownership of the productive forces and strategic resources of the nation, and also able to guarantee sustainable development, social justice, national sovereignty, autonomy of the indigenous peoples, and the practice of popular democracy.

The first step towards a national popular and democratic exit strategy is the current crisis. We have to see to restoring constitutional order through struggle against the usurpation of the government of the Republic by the group of politicians, business magnates, judges, and military officials who are behind Felipe Calderón. The de facto chief of the federal executive is the primary manifestation of a corrupt, anti-nation political regime, an instrument of big business and transnational corporations that advance the complete plunder of our work force, public property and national resources. Calderón is the most visible figure of the mafia that intends to consummate the installation of a State obedient to the United States and the delinquent characters of a Police State, in the manner of the Colombian military. The struggle against this usurper and the dominant group includes the defense of our basic rights, social, political and civil freedoms, and also laying the groundwork to remove this neo-liberal government who have betrayed the people and the motherland.

In less than three years the number of poor Mexicans has increased by 10 million. Today, more that 70 million people live in poverty; 24 or 25 million of these live in extreme poverty suffering degrading, inhuman misery. Calderón may want to be known as “The President of Employment,” yet he has caused almost a million and half workers to lose their jobs. Calderón, who is supposedly in charge of the “War against insecurity and delinquency,” has converted Mexico into the least secure and most violent country in the world in a time of peace. His war against narco-trafficking has left more than 15,000 people assassinated and more than 7000 disappeared. Neither the violence nor the kidnappings seem to be diminishing and much less ceasing. Meanwhile \$25-40,000,000,000 are in the banks and the companies of this respectable private initiative with the approval of Calderón and Obama. Impunity reigns, and those responsible for the industrial crimes in the Pasta de Conchos mine disaster remain free along with Ulises Ruiz, Mario Marín, Javier Lozano and the real culprits of the case of the ABC daycare center. Not to mention the deaths in Juarez, or human rights violation in San Salvador Atenco, Acteal and more.

Excerpts from an Exclusive Interview with The Leadership of Los Macheteros

by Claridad www.claridadpuertorico.com December 16, 2009

Ten months have passed since the administration of Luis Fortuño and the PNP [New Progressives, pro-statehood] came to power. What analysis have you made of the situation?

The loss by Anibal Acevedo Vila, of the PPD [Popular Democratics, pro-Commonwealth] at the hands of Fortuño does not radically change the neoliberal policies of either party. Both speak of peace, justice, and social freedom. Both used demagoguery to come to power. Both awoke feelings of hope in the masses, when the reality is that it does not matter which party wins the elections, both parties respond to the interests of the US bourgeoisie and the local bourgeoisie, within whom are banks, developers, contractors, etc. Because Fortuño is a fervent servant of Republican capitalist neo-liberal policies, he has put in motion a strategy geared to shrink the government, privatize everything that interests lenders and capitalists, and eliminate everything that sustains the Puerto Rican nation and its culture. Our organization, Ejercito Popular Boricua – Macheteros, understands that since the swearing-in of the governor the situation has been disastrous, moving towards a privileged class at the detriment of the people.

What evaluation has been made concerning the main actions taken by Fortuño, his government, and the Legislature?

This colonial legislature is, to some degree, worse than its predecessors. It has not demonstrated the capacity to legislate with creativity and sensitivity. The only thing it has in mind is a desire to promote political and economic ideology, and for this they do not hesitate to sink the people into a situation of poverty. By the same token, we have seen how any opposition – including opposition party legislators, persons, or institutions - is humiliated, devalued, and crushed. The lack of a strong opposition makes legislators from the PPD accomplices of the violations by the majority party. They have approved legislation without considering the opinions of the union sector, environmentalists, communities, young people, political movements and the people in general. They designated an ‘ex FBI employee’ and murderer [as police chief], Jose Figueroa Sancha, whose main goal is confrontation.

What opinion does the organization have on the reaction of popular movementsto neoliberalism? How do you evaluate the role of the ndependence movement in such situations?

Independence-supporting organizations have failed during this entire situation, and haven’t developed an offensive plan when faced with the current administration. This is the perfect time, as a united front, to send a clear and precise message to the people indicating that the situation won’t be resolved by replacing Fortuño with [PNP pro-statehood Senate Speaker] Thomas Rivera Schatz, nor by replacing him with a candidate from the [pro-commonwealth/colony] PPD. Elections in Puerto Rico have always been manipulated and thus those elected do not represent the people; they represent the interests of the colonial power, the bankers and business. The Independence movement must stand in the front lines of each protest. Political cannibalism n the independence movement should be eradicated once and for all.

We, the clandestine organizations, are evaluating the current situation and are implementing unitary policies in order to support the people during the current situation. There is talk of a General Strike and we ask ourselves if as of today a tactical and strategic plan has been prepared to delineate all that has to be resolved before such a General Strike is called. This consists of the formation of a single chain of command, that is charged with replacing leadership in the case of arrests or assassinations, and that counts on the participation of all affected groups. (This chain of command should take all security precautions to prevent infiltration by informants). It would also require the coordination of communication over the entire island, and clear and precise definition of negotiable demands which do not favor one group over another. It must be clear that a General Strike cannot be conducted by only one group, like the union sector. Demands must include rejection of privatization, rehiring all workers including those of the private sector, and firing the Police Superintendent.

What is the current state of the struggle for Puerto Rico’s Independence, given the processes shaping a progressive Latin American today?

The president has deployed the armed forces throughout national territory in his mission of public security, in violation of article 129 of the Mexican Political constitution. He has consequently degraded the Armed Forces by transforming a military into an occupation army and a counter-insurgency force in service of the oligarchies. As his role of Supreme commander he has subordinated the Armed Forces and the police of the government of the United States, behind the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America and The Merida Initiative. These agreements gravely affect national sovereignty, and in essence are acts of treason against the motherland. They have brought about the collapse of the national economy, contraction of the internal market, growth of illegal internal and external debt and the destruction of industrial productivity, as well devastation of farmland and the end of self-sufficient farming. This has led to mass migration, affecting the quality of life for all sectors of the population. Moreover Calderón has illegally given territory to the mining, oil, agricultural and hotel interests, leading to environmental degradation against people and entire communities who have already been irreparably damaged.

In violation of article 123 of the Constitution, and in accord with the anti-labor politics of his predecessors, Calderon recently transgressed the autonomy of the Mexican Union of Electricians “Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas” (SME). The purpose of this unconstitutional act was to advance the destruction of our energy sovereignty and to impose privatization of electric energy and the services derived from the use of fiber optics. This required firing more than 44,000 workers, who have been characterized by their opposition to the governmental plans.

Does there exist any reasonable doubt about the regressive and reactionary nature of the current governing group? Could anyone hope for a redirection of the course of the country on part of the usurper and his people? In the days leading up to the commemoration of the Bicentennial of Mexican Independence and the Centennial of the Mexican Revolution, we are confronted with this extraordinary escalation of social and national crisis leading us on a downward slope of repressive measures and the gravest economic socio-environmental catastrophe in the history of the country. We must take a step forward and convene ourselves, just as Hidalgo, Morelos, Juárez, Magón, Villa, Zapata y Cárdenas did, and fight to revoke the mandate of the de facto president Felipe de Jesús Calderón Hinojosa. To discuss the ways and means we are organizing a first meeting for December 5 at the Railworkers Union hall at Calle Dr. Lucio #29, Colonia Doctores, Mexico City, to which all Mexican citizens ready to wage this battle are invited. In particular, we call upon the Movement in Defense of Popular Economy, Oil and Sovereignty, the Movement for Food and Energy Sovereignty, Workers’ Rights and Democratic Freedoms, upon the National Resistance Popular Assembly, upon the Zapatista “Other Campaign” and upon the National Unity Conference of the Left to participate in the discussions and agreements so that once and for all Calderón and his government will be gone.

Respectfully,
More than 600 individual and organizational Signers from every part of Mexico
November 30, 2009

How is it possible to talk about conversations and successes with those who have sustained and sustain the colony, when even amongst ourselves there is discord? How is it possible that after the assassination of the Secretary General of the Ejercito Popular Boricua Macheteros, Comandante Filiberto Ojeda Rios, reference is made about the call for unity that he made practically before his assassination, and today, each organization does its own thing without coming to unifying agreements geared toward conducting joint actions towards the achievement of a truly free and sovereign Republic? We can’t solely depend on the international support of those countries who show us solidarity, if we do not demonstrate to these compañeros how far we are willing to go in order to achieve independence.

How is the organization? What role does it plan on playing in strengthening the independence movement and overall struggle?

Our organization has not changed its military-political vision of struggle, which was established by the compañero Comandante Filiberto Ojeda Rios and the leadership at that time. Our organization and its members have always had an elevated ideological conviction which is accompanied by a spirit of valor and sacrifice, as was demonstrated by our Secretary General Comandante Filiberto Ojeda Rios in the most glorious moment of his life, in sacrificing it for the homeland, for his people, in confronting the invading enemy, the assassins for hire. Within guerrilla movements there is the expectation that each guerrilla fighter dominate his weapon. Filiberto learned a long time ago how to dominate his. We expect all of us to do the same.

We plead for a peace, a convergence within the independence movement: a democratic and concrete peace; conversations within the framework of participatory democracy with the goal of achieving the free, sovereign, and democratic Republic. The unity of the Left has to be the principle nucleus of this convergence of forces that needs the participation, support, and direction of all of the strands within the progressive left. This should not be so difficult to achieve since we already have two examples of unity and participatory democracy: the unity in action between the Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores Puertorriqueños (Puerto Rican Revolutionary Workers Party; PRTP) and our organization, the Ejercito Popular Boricua (Boricua Popular Army; EPB) and the unity that is witnessed during the activities organized the 23rd of every month that are hosted by the Coordinadora Nacional de la Vigilias por la Dignidad Filiberto Ojeda Rios (National Coordinator of the Vigils for the Dignity of Filiberto Ojeda Rios), which are organized by and attended by numerous sectors of the independence movement and the public at large.

What do you think about the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States?

The election of Barack Obama as President of the United States was not a surprise. The military-industrial complex that really runs that country needed a charismatic and apparently-liberal figure to replace Bush, who had upset the people and left the economy in ruins and risked the entire political-military imperialist system. That he is black does not mean that his ideas are very different from those of his white predecessors. The only way to reach the Presidency of the United States is to be in communion with the group-think of big business and the military, and to be willing to implement the policies of the empire. This empire has sacked the entire world and has manipulated, with its military might and propaganda, all of Latin America to the point that many of these countries surrendered their sovereignty. Like with all empires, changing in this regard will be very difficult. We do not see a radical change in the politics of Obama toward Latin America. On the contrary, judging from the situation in Honduras, the threats against the Bolivarian government of Venezuela, and the bases in Colombia, the interventionist policy and the support for coup d’état have continued and will continue. With regards to Cuba, we don’t see any movement that would indicate the removal of the blockade, which is what most of Latin American governments have requested.

Long Live our Secretary General, Comandante Filiberto Ojeda Rios!

Anti-fascist struggle in Latin America:

An Interview with RASH-Bogotá by RASH-Paris

from www.ecoledelarue.com; translation from the French by ARA-LA

Can we have a little history of RASH Bogotá?

RASH Bogotá: Briefly, RASH Bogotá is born in 1997, originally exclusively urban. Skins of the communist era are behind it; their goal was to create a strong and organized movement to propose political and counter-cultural solutions. Initially, we did not do much; we put out a fanzine called *Red Zine*, we ran a bar called *Bar-Red* and we prowled the city in search of Nazis. We were 10 at maximum. To animate RASH, we worked with anarchist political organizations and Communists, we were involved in demonstrations and we often tangled with the cops. RASH succeeded the old *Resistencia Redskin* of Bogotá, which was dissolved. We had a lot of stories of fights, confusing variety, some of us spent little stay in prison, we formed a theater that was thought to be quite entertaining. One day, we got sick, and we have decided to build a strong disciplined organization, respected by the city for both its political/cultural activity and its direct actions.

Could you present your activity and define yourselves politically?

Currently we are working hard in our city and also internationally. Each time our finances allow us, we put out our fanzine *Barricada Internacionalista*. We have already published three numbers and the fourth is expected soon. Our zine is called so because we are recalling the work of an early fanzine from RASH Paris, *Barricata*. Throughout the year we do different counter-cultural and political initiatives and social activities. We organize festivals: Fuck The RAC Fest, RASH Fest, Rock Radical Rojo and “Para Todos Todo” (All for Everyone) Festival. These events greatly contributed to strengthening the anti-Fascist movement in Bogota. There were musical groups who were close to us, and RASH could present their proposals and policies in a cultural milieu. In addition, each year we realize the

Revolution for Latin America revolves around what happens in Venezuela - a draft policy for our continent, it relies heavily on the participation of people power. That is why we support him in all matters relating to social work that we hope will be fruitful for the Venezuelan people. We support the Bolivarian Continental!

And policy changes in South America following the election of a socialist president?

All this must be analyzed under the microscope for each country, because the contexts are different. Brazil’s is a Social Democrat regime who is inclined to the right and not revolutionary. In Argentina, the process that started since the crisis of the early 2000s has been stopped dead by reactionaries. In Bolivia, Evo Morales has faced off impressively with domestic ultra-rightists over his battle to give more power to the people, which was very hard - the clashes resulted in many fatalities. Peru is headed by a lackey of U.S. imperialism. Countries attempting to take a radical shift live through hard confrontations with internal capitalists doing everything in their power to perpetuate their interests. We lack sufficient unity among peoples and international solidarity so that our continent could take a left turn and advance towards freedom. In Colombia, we have a stronger dictatorship protected by continental alliance of narco-paramilitary-politicians headed by Uribe (a South American mercenary in the service of gringos).



What is your vision of Bolivar?

For us, Bolivar is a South American struggle that is reborn on this continent for the people to be able to advance. All Power to the People! It is necessary to



t recover what is ours and to retain it because we have long been exploited, humiliated and massacred. It is necessary at the international level, that people show solidarity with his process and help us in different ways to achieve our aim. A new South America!

Can you tell us about the punk and skin scene in Colombia?

The punk scene is very ambiguous in Colombia. Politically, it was not clear, but there were exceptions, some claim a pugnacious punk and activist stance, and we work with them often. For the Colombian skin movement we can give you some numbers: 400 fake neo-Nazi skins, 300 ambiguous skins, 1000 anti-fa skins. In short, many skins, many fashions. Few true beliefs. Few concrete and real struggles. The only movement that continues to have a clear belief that is clean is RASH and some sections of SHARP Colombia. The balance is good but we must strengthen the ideological.

Are there any fascists and Nazis in Colombia, what is their address?

Yes, although it may seem contradictory, there are Fachos here! They have a strong rap. They say they fight for the race, when all are the product of miscegenation Continental. They say they fight for the white family, but are closer to the toxicological or gangster. Finally, they are a product of capitalism and European fashions. Young people with no sense of life or sense of belonging. Many come from the punk scene and are the product

following campaigns: campaigns of Solidarity with Political Prisoners and with the peoples of the world, the anti-fascist march in Bogota, in April, and antifascist Red October. And we participate in numerous events organized throughout the year: industrial labor actions, to defend public education, for work, to counter Homophobia, racism, and discrimination, Steps for those displaced and exiled from our country, etc. Similarly, we work with the Anti-Fascist Coordination of Bogota, which we were in at the origin, which is currently doing very good work. We also attached to the work of BafS (Brigada antifascisat) from Bogota. We develop a social work and politics in the city and across the country, registered at the national level RASH Colombia, and we are proud to belong to the United Confederation of RASH. We spend every day struggling for freedom, equality and solidarity of the peoples of the world.

You consider yourself a political group or more like a cultural group?

We are a political organization that carries out counter-cultural and revolutionary acts within the Colombian youth movement, seeking empowerment of people and their liberation from the yoke of the oppressor. We work with various political organizations that are red, anarchist, revolutionary and combative (the list is long) in the idea that we implement with each a little more in the social and political movement in Colombia.

What do you think of the situation in Venezuela and Chavez’s politics?

Well, we’re not married to anyone, any party - we are independent and autonomous. We have neither flag nor borders, but we perceive that the Bolivarian

of ambiguity. They fight for nationalism, and “honor.” Politically, they combine with ultraconservative parties who finance their damage, such as Cambio Radical (“Radical Change”), the Conservative Party and other Christian parties. The majority of them are children of poor families, very humble. This means their level of ignorance, which leads to being regarded as neo-Nazis. These morons are manipulated by many political



groups into paramilitaries, which use them to defend their interests. Their speech is modeled on that of Uribe calling for democratic security (sic), killing insurgents, etc.. (With this speech, they have many followers.) In an ultra-fascist country there will always be sheep to be dominated by political groups.

I guess state repression against the revolutionary elements is strong in Colombia. Could you tell us about it?

The repression is very strong here, actually. Each day, youths, trade union leaders, teacher union members, representatives of the mothers, students, and activists disappear and nobody does anything. This paramilitary-fascist “State” continues to destroy the people to serve its interests and in a macabre manner dominate domestic policy under the threat of bullets. The state carries out large-scale massacres and dresses up the corpses of civilians to proclaim the execution of “terrorists.”

www.rashbogota.org

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UPCOMING

LOS ANGELES AREA

ANTI-RACIST ACTIONS:

Friday, January 8, 8:30 AM: Justice for Oscar Grant
Demonstration and Press Conference at the opening hearing for killer cop Johannes Mehserle at 210 West Temple St., the downtown LA Criminal Courts building (Dept. 104, Judge Perry)

Sunday, January 10, 3-5:00 PM: Troubled Waters

Amnesty International report on Israeli control and expropriation of Palestinian water, presented by BDS-LA (Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions Coalition), endorsed by LA Jews for Peace, Women in Black

Sun., Jan. 17, 5 pm: LA Coalition 4 Justice 4 Oscar Grant
The official founding meeting of the local L.A. coalition will take place at Chuco’s Justice Center, 1137 W. Redondo Blvd., Inglewood (2 blocks w. of Crenshaw, 1 block n. of Florence)

Mon., Jan. 18: Martin Luther King Day march

Join one of the anti-racist, anti-war contingents in the annual march in LA’s Crenshaw district

Friday, January 22: Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

Defend abortion access and women’s reproductive rights against the Christian fascists

Sat., Jan. 23, Teach-In on the Economic Crisis

Grassroots KPFFK Coalition presents former presidential candidate Cynthia McKinney and other speakers on how to fight back against foreclosures, layoffs, and build grassroots survival programs

Sun., Jan. 24, Second L.A. Anarchist Book Fair

Workshops, speakers, merchandise, literature and more at the Barnsdall Art Park in Silverlake/East Hollywood

Sat., February 6, 1-3 PM, AWARE-LA Saturday dialog

Alliance of White Anti-Racists Everywhere holds their monthly Saturday dialogue

Thursday, March 4: Defend Public Education

Statewide day of student-teacher-community action to overturn draconian state budget cuts of the University of California/Cal State U/Community College/K-12/adult education systems.

Sat., March 20: Stop the Wars and Occupation

Protest marches in L.A., San Francisco, DC, and probably elsewhere

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