

Imperialist & Settler Colonial Privilege:

Water, Water Everywhere, Nor Any a Drop To Drink

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

California's state government officials and others are patting themselves on the back at the success of consumer water conservation measures, which, combined with recent El Nino rainfall and snowfall, have raised water levels back up from record lows during the state's long drought (which may not be over for the long term). The premature self-congratulation reflects the arrogance and privilege that dominate thinking in the US about what are termed "natural resources."

Forgotten is the long-term contract under which Nestle extracted, bottled and privatized public drinking water through many long months and years of arid conditions. Unmentioned is the use of water for "fracking," hydraulic fracturing to force additional gas and oil out of depleted, depressurized wells, or the resultant contamination of underground water supplies. Ignored except by activists is enormous thirst of industrialized agribusiness and animal husbandry, which uses far more water than that consumed directly by individual residents in their homes.

But water is very much on people's minds, not only because of the drought, but because of the enormous, scandalous crime of the government of the State of Michigan

(and the US Environmental Protection Agency) against the people of Flint Michigan. In that predominantly Black city, the emergency manager imposed by Gov. Rick Snyder, knowing the consequences, switched the source of the city's water supply to the toxic, acidic Flint River (polluted for decades by industrial effluents), without lining the city's water pipes to protect them. The anticipated result occurred -- the water began to leach lead from the pipes, so that all the drinking, cooking and showering water in Flint became contaminated, basically unfit for human use or consumption, and with horrible physiological, medical and mental problems for the children exposed to it. The belated disclosure of these crimes resulted in awareness that lead contamination is quite widespread in US drinking water systems, from Newark New Jersey to schools right here in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

In Bolivia, some years ago, when the government attempted to privatize the water system, there was a mass uprising of mostly poor, indigenous people, that forced the cancellation of the contract and the restoration of water as a public utility. This was instrumental in the process of building a movement that could win control of the government and empower indigenous people -- not yet a full social, economic and political transformation of the state and society, but an advance in the popular struggles in Latin America.

Where are the corresponding uprisings in the US? There is a deep-rooted denial among people in the US of the existence of colonialism inside the borders. The "Third World" of colonized, malnourished, thirsty people, of women who must carry water on their heads for long distances, or wash their clothes by hand in the river, or expropriate water for their shanty-towns or gardens, is "out there." The USA is number 1 we say. This ignores the reality that before Flint, there was Detroit, where the publicly-owned water utility went about closing off the water supply of hundreds of mostly poor and Black residents who had fallen behind on their water bills after the rates were raised. Detroit is another Michigan city, like Flint, where local government has been stripped of any democratic pretense and is being run by an emergency manager appointed by Gov. Snyder. In fact, a majority of the Black population of the state now lives under the rule of such undemocratic managers, with the devastating consequences and denial of fundamental human rights discussed above. The name for this denial of "home rule" anywhere else in the world is well-known -- colonialism.

But the fundamental colonialism at the root of the ecologically-destructive practices with water in the US is settler colonialism -- the theft of Native land, denial of indigenous people's sovereignty, genocidal policies against First Nation peoples, and imposition of a system of privatization that serves as the basis for the construction of a massively repressive state structure to maintain that theft. That state structure includes not only the police and the military, but the courts, prisons, schools, bureaucracy and the telephone-book-thick compilations of laws that enforce and reinforce privatization of water, land, and so-called "natural resources." Mainstream, corporate dominated "environmentalism" has been a part of this paradigm and problem.

"Privilege" is the name for something not yours by right, something that distinguishes you from others by virtue of its possession. To keep their privileges, people give in and go along. To defend their rights, people stand up and fight back. So long as access to potable water, nourishing, healthful food, and shelter fit for the habitat

of human beings are viewed as privileges and subject to market domination -- that is, private expropriation and production for profit -- we are incapable of truly fighting to preserve the water, the soil and air, or our own human rights as part of the natural world. And our incapacity to fight manifests itself in the continued and escalating poisoning of the water and the soil, disruption of the water cycle, depletion of 10 or 20,000 year old aquifers, acidification of the oceans due to excessive CO₂ and methane emissions, melting polar ice, including the Antarctic and Greenland land-based ice-sheets that will raise ocean levels and inundate shore-line cities -- a large portion of the Florida peninsula is going to be submerged in the lifetimes of people now living.

At a succession of international conferences, the US and other Western powers turned a deaf ear to island nation peoples and those from low-lying countries like Bangladesh, warning of the deadly impact and consequences of global warming. We ignored the warning of indigenous elders from Greenland, who testified they could hear the water running beneath the island's ice sheets even during the winter. Mired in the mentality of privilege, the population in the US or Europe



Children in Flint Michigan march in protest to demand safe drinking water.

still has not risen up against the imperial governments. We are divided against ourselves, looking for scape-goats or victims to blame; thus Trump, Le Pen and the nazi-led anti-immigrant protests in Germany and elsewhere. We look at peasant women in Brazil, or Nigeria, or India or the Philippines, queuing up for water from a well to carry back to their homes, and we think we have it good.

But if we imagine that privilege will protect us from the consequences of not rising up and fighting back while there is still a chance, we are truly detached from reality. Not so long ago, there were hundreds of thousands in the US without hot and cold running water or indoor plumbing. We can begin to see now that those days are returning -- not just for Native people on reservations or Black people in Flint or Detroit.

Water doesn't originate from the tap, nor is food produced at the supermarket. Those are the ends of now-global supply chains that originate in the exploitation and expropriation of the natural world (which is the basis for continued life on this planet) and are processed through the coercive exploitation of human labor, both physical and mental, for private profit. But we cannot overturn this parasitical, death-dealing system without overturning the colonialism on which it is based and which it perpetuates, with our complicity.

We must embrace and unite with the struggles of indigenous people around the world, including inside the so-called borders of the US to assert their sovereignty and defend the natural world. For example, the Piipaash Uumish of Maricopa Colony, AZ, recently denounced a water district proposal to install pipelines to carry

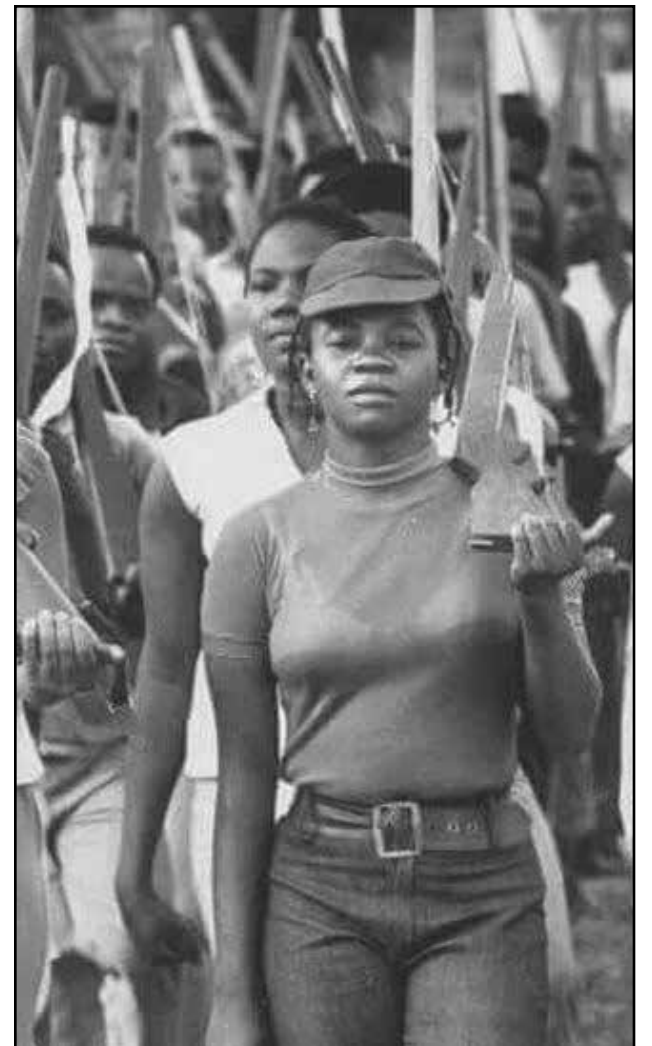


People gather in Gujarat, India to seek water from a well.-UN Water Day photo

blended "Reclaimed/Effluent" (sewer) water. "The project proposes to trade treated sewer/effluent water from Chandler and Mesa municipalities for our Central Arizona Project water at a 5:4 ratio. It then intends to pipe the 'reclaimed' water back into our Community (mixing some with more CAP water creating 'blended' water) and apply it on tribal and allotted lands for agricultural and other purposes," they said.

The Piipaash Community, as of September 19, 2015, voted to keep the pipelines and all reclaimed/ effluent/ blended water from entering into their territory, citing serious health risks. The Piipaash are concerned about the affects of the reclaimed water on the environment, specifically the foods, wildlife and vegetation, cultural and spiritual sites, and the overall impact of the reclaimed sewer water on our underground waters and natural recharge. They are requesting the Tribal Council and all concerned committees and departments within the Gila River Indian Community, the AZ Governor, Lt. Governor, Department of Environmental Quality, the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project, "and all entities involving Water on or off our traditional territories, to acknowledge the Piipaash Indigenous Nation's resolution to keep Reclaimed/Effluent water off our lands and out of our waters." For more information contact Owe Aku International Justice Project at oweakuinternational@me.com or 720-469-1178, 7685 S. Olive Cir., Centennial, CO 80112.

Elsewhere in this issue, you can read about the efforts by the Black Riders Liberation Party to meet the human rights and need of Black people in Flint for water. The path forward to environmental sustainability is by uniting with such anti-colonial efforts, as for instance the Palestinian resistance to Israeli theft of their water, or the defense of Syrian refugees from drought and war.



Nigerian women and men in armed march to defend their village resources and water.

MONDO MOURNED

© 2016 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

He was born David Rice, and in his youth, he joined an offshoot of the Black Panther Party, a decision that would change his life's trajectory.

For, when he and another young man, Edward Poindexter, joined the National Committee to Combat Fascism (NCCF), they walked into the crosshairs of the state.

The 2 men became enmeshed in a COINTELPRO scheme to remove them from the streets of Lincoln, Nebraska. Rice and Ed were charged with the August 1970 killing of an Omaha cop, who picked up a briefcase loaded with dynamite.

According to the group Nebraskans for Justice, another man, Christopher Peak was the state's only suspect in the bombing. But shortly thereafter, after first exonerating Rice and Poindexter, Peak would become the State's chief witness against them.



Mondo we Langa

In April 1971, both men were convicted and given life terms; such flimsy evidence would be a factor in Amnesty International's naming the two Panthers as prisoners of conscience.

On Sunday we learned that Rice, who changed his name to Mondo we Langa, died a long, lonely death in his prison cell, after 45 years in a cage.

Mondo and Ed were members of the National Committee to Combat Fascism, but in truth, they were Panthers. For that is certainly how the State treated them.

Mondo we Langa and Ed Poindexter were servants of the People, dedicated to their freedom and dignity. Mondo we Langa and Ed Poindexter were soldiers for the People, dedicated to their defense and security.

Mondo we Langa is no more - neither is David Rice--; and yet, Mondo will be remembered for many, many long years for his service.

Mondo, after many, many years in a cage, now joins his ancestors.

--© '16maj [col. writ. 3/14/16]

List of Demands from Men Incarcerated at Holman Prison in Alabama

<https://medium.com/@aintacrow/list-of-demands-from-men-incarcerated-at-holman-prison-in-alabama-8707ef9d63aa#.qrfnk4tlp>

by Raven Rakia

Two uprisings occurred at Holman prison in Alabama recently. One, starting on Friday night involved fires being set after the Warden was stabbed. The second on Monday morning, involved 70–100 men barricading themselves inside their dormitory. The men at Holman Prison have released a set of demands. Sent to me via video, the six demands are listed below:

1. We inmates, at Holman Prison, ask for immediate federal assistance.
2. We ask that the Alabama government release all inmates who have spent excessive time in Holman Prison—due to the conditions of the prison and the overcrowding of these prisons in Alabama.
3. We ask that the 446 laws [Habitual Felony Offender laws] that Alabama holds as of 1975 be abolished.
4. We ask that parole board release all inmates who fit the criteria to be back in society with their families.
5. We ask that these prisons in Alabama implement proper classes that will prepare inmates to be released back into society with 21st century information that will prepare inmates to open and own their own businesses instead of making them having to beg for a job.
6. We also ask for monetary damages for mental pain and physical abuse that inmates have already suffered.

For more information on Alabama's Habitual Felony Offenders Law (their version of the 3 strike laws), read this quick explanation http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2014/06/how_does_alabamas_habitual_off.html

For more information on Alabama's parole process, and how people who are eligible for parole aren't receiving it: <http://www.correctionsone.com/alabama/articles/7622296-Study-Parole-probation-issues-keeping-prisons-overcrowded/>.

**Now nation-wide protests and solidarity actions
on the 23rd of each month:
Coordinated Actions to End Solitary Confinement**
<https://prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com/take-action-2/>

Ehrlichman: 'WAR ON DRUGS REALLY 'BOUT BLACKS & HIPPIES'

©2016 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

For the youth of today, the name John Ehrlichman rings no bells.

For people who lived through the '60s, it is either famous or notorious. The name references a former high-ranking member of the White House staff, a close aide to former President, Richard M. Nixon, and one of the so-called 'White House plumbers'--men who were at the very heart of the infamous Watergate scandal.

What makes his name re-ring an old bell is the revelations made some 22 years ago to the magazine, *Harper's*, where officials spoke openly and honestly about the political machinations underlying the so-called 'War on Drugs' launched by the Nixon administration in the hot midst of the Vietnam War.



Mumia Abu-Jamal

According to Ehrlichman, the 'war' was launched as a 'political tool' to attack two radical communities: Blacks and antiwar hippies (the youth of the era). It was a political way of waging attacks on both groups without seeming to do so. And it worked -- splendidly. The "war" allowed cops-armed with this corrupt 'law'-to kick down doors, raid apartments, lock up people-all in the name of 'saving them from the scourge of drugs.

Herr Ehrlichman told Harper's: "Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did."

Now, decades after the press, the courts, the intelligentsia of the nation had signed onto this ignoble, corrupt campaign, the truth emerges. It wasn't about drugs. It never was. It was about Politics.

Mao used to say: "Politics is war without bloodshed." How true those words seem today. For, the wretched 'war on drugs', really a war on the poor, the Black, the radical, the hip, has devastated whole communities, created the Leviathan of the world's largest prison system, and cast countless souls into the hatred-infested holes and netherworlds of prison, probation and death.

The war, still being waged in cities and communities across the nation, was a trick spat by the late, 'Tricky Dick' Nixon, and bought into by state government and police powers, to wreck dark communities--those unwilling to vote Republican, by the way--in the name of the unjust, intrusive, fake 'law'.

That, according to Ehrlichman, was its intent: to "disrupt communities"; communities of resistance to the State.

The war on Drugs was lost before it began, because it was all based on a lie. --_©'16maj

MUMIA NEEDS US AGAIN! PLEASE CALL, FAX, AND E-MAIL NOW! Medical Malfeasance and Deliberate Indifference at SCI-Mahanoy are Killing Mumia Abu-Jamal

We are concerned about Mumia's deteriorating health, as has been witnessed in recent weeks by his visiting doctor, clergy, counselors, teachers, family and friends. Evidence of intensifying Hepatitis C symptoms and possible development of the diabetes that nearly killed him a year ago calls for immediate and appropriate treatment. We, therefore, urge you to,

DEMAND

Immediate provision to Mumia of anti-viral treatment to cure his Hepatitis C condition that is, as his doctor testified in court, the persistent cause of worsening skin disease, almost certain liver damage, now extreme weight-gain and hunger, and other diabetic-like conditions.

Immediate release of all recent blood test results to Mumia's attorneys.

Vigilant monitoring of Mumia for signs of diabetes, especially of his blood sugar level, since a diabetes attack nearly killed Mumia last Spring of 2015.

PHONE, FAX, AND E-MAIL THESE DEMANDS TO:

PA. GOVERNOR TOM WOLF

Phone: 717-787-2500

Fax: 717-772-8284

E-mail: <<http://www.governor.pa.gov/contact/Pages/contact.aspx>>.

PA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, SECRETARY, JOHN WETZEL

Phone: 717-728-2573, 717 787 2500

E-mail: ra-contactdoc@pa.gov

MAHANAY PRISON, SUPERINTENDENT, Theresa DelBalso

Phone: 570-773-2158

(You have to be transferred to her secretary, and she refuses to give out the fax number or e-mail for the Superintendent. Not surprising, given that this new superintendent has a very heavy military background).

Sponsored by: International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, MOVE, Educators for Mumia, Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC), Campaign to Bring Mumia Home, International Action Center.

Last year, ARA-LA participated in “Friends of the MST,” and helped bring a militant from the Brazilian Landless Rural Workers Movement to Los Angeles, to lay the basis of on-going relationships between grassroots community, labor and left groups and the socially and politically advanced Brazilians. Brazil has the largest African-descent population outside the continent, is part of the BRICS anti-neo-liberal alliance of developing countries and of the “pink tide” of social-democratic governments in Latin America that are now the focus of a concerted imperialist counter-offensive by the US. *Turning The Tide* is printing here an array of perspectives on the developing situation in Brazil, where massive right-wing protests based mostly in European-descent and more well-to-do sectors of Brazilian society are seeking to impeach the Workers Party president, ex-political prisoner Dilma Rousseff, possibly before the August Olympics are held in Rio, even though the PT government has generally allowed multinationals like Monsanto free reign, has until just recently participated in the UN occupation of Haiti, and is seeking US security cooperation for the Olympics.--*Editor*

FOCUS ON BRAZIL

Brazil’s Democracy & a Return to the Senzala

by Bruno De Oliveira, BrasilWire (Excerpts)

Lula da Silva is placed at the disposal of justice. A police apparatus was set up to coerce the former president to testify under the cross-hairs of the mainstream media, *Globo*, which supported the 1964 Coup and subsequent dictatorship.

The operation “Car Wash” (Lava Jato) move to force Lula to testify was leaked to *Globo TV* beforehand so their helicopter could hover over the former president’s house before the federal police arrived. During the night, *Epoca* magazine (which belongs to *Globo*) happily tweeted about the actions that would take place the following morning. This was a sign of the media’s power to manipulate public opinion with a noticeable coup-driven agenda. Federal judge Sérgio Moro has become the high-profile face of the campaign against the Workers Party (PT), Rousseff and Lula. It’s a political move to stop the former president from running for the presidency again.

Brazil is experiencing the return of an old ghost which haunts its cultural, social and political life - the conflict between the Casa Grande (master’s colonial mansion) and the Senzala (slaves quarters). Sociologist Gilberto Freyre presented the importance of the relationship between the Casa Grande and the Senzala in Brazilian social-cultural reproduction. The architecture of the Casa Grande expresses Brazil’s form of social organisation and political system. Politics was traditionally only a domain for the Casa Grande. Brazilian’s corporate media, especially *Globo*, has supported that cultural perspective for generations. The Brazilian political crisis is fueled by predominantly white upper-middle class attitudes towards predominantly black working-class and its access to redistributive social welfare programs.

This powerful press chooses the heroes and villains, designating public enemies from its class opponents. It creates the defendants and supports the judges who say that penalties should be applied regardless of the legal apparatus because they can always twist the law.

2008-2014 marked the best period in Brazilian history. Inflation ranged between 4.31-6.50%, considered optimum for an economy. The unemployment rate in 2014 was 4.8%, the lowest ever recorded. The PT passed laws requiring that 50% of all students enrolled at public universities are from low-income backgrounds and primarily Afro-Brazilian, in accordance with their representation in the population. Before PT took office, this percentage hovered around 5%. Brazil’s foreign reserves are still 10 times higher than they were before PT took office. However, the mainstream media is designed to cover up or even fabricate news.



Contrasting headlines in corporate Brazilian press: Brazil takes streets against Lula & Dilma (the right); Allies of Dilma & Lula hold demonstrations (the left).

Dilma’s administration raised the minimum wage to R\$880 for 2016. This represents a real increase of 77% since 2003 and will inject R\$57 billion into the economy.

The reactionary singsong of the media is one of its instruments of manipulation. A democracy in Brazil needs to be controlled and validated by *Globo* or it is not a democracy. *Globo* has a long and dirty history when it come to defending its political interests against regimes that enacted strong minimum wage policies and continued its tradition against Lula and Dilma.

Ranciere (2001) notes that, “democracy is a term invented by its opponents, by all those who were ‘qualified’ to govern because of seniority, birth, wealth, virtue, and knowledge ... using it as a term of derision. Before designating the name of a community, Demos was the name of one part of the community: namely, the poor.

See: “Senzala,” p. 6

A Brief Look at Brazilian Social Movements

by Brian Mier, BrasilWire (Excerpts)

As violence against social movements increases and their criminalization in the media and judiciary intensifies, it’s time to take a closer look at who these movements are and what they’re doing.

During the 70s, as Brazil suffered under a US-backed neofascist military dictatorship, liberation theology factions in the Catholic Church created political organizing groups, called ecclesiastic base communities, in poor villages and slums. Using tools developed by Paulo Freire, and influenced by Marxism, the priests and nuns began to develop local leaders and organize exchanges at the local, regional and national level. The role liberation theologians played, from the final years of the dictatorship until their censure by the Church hierarchy, was fundamental in the formation of the poor people’s social movements. These movements played an important part in creating one of world’s most progressive constitutions, as well as in the formation of the PT (Workers Party), and the elections and re-elections of Lula Inacio da Silva and Dilma Rousseff.

The Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Terra, or MST (the Landless Rural Workers’ Movement), was created in 1984 to address inequalities in rural areas (caused by 500 years of monoculture) by fighting for agrarian reform, collectively squatting on and farming unproductive land under the slogan “Occupy, Resist, Produce.” Due mainly to its efforts, this practice is considered legal under the 1988 Constitution (although the Constitution is frequently ignored by local governments and the judiciary in Brazil).



Left, labor and popular movements protest against austerity measures in Brazil, April 2015.

Over its first 16 years, the MST established small farms for 250,000 affiliated families. During the Lula presidency, the MST began to shift focus, slowing the number of land occupations and consolidating democratic community control over 100s of villages spread across 23 states. Lula increased educational funding for agrarian-reform village residents by over 500%, funding adult literacy and teacher training programs (in partnership with public universities) so they could staff, manage and develop curricula for the public schools in their villages. 1000s of MST members are studying at public universities, producing high-quality research, and many local schools in MST villages are staffed entirely by movement members.

MST strengthened its relationship with the Via Campesina International Peasants’ Movement, engaging in political organizing work in countries around the developing world and coordinating large protests against mining and agribusiness multinationals like Vale and Cargill. The MST doesn’t have a single leader, but operates according to a democratic structure in which pairs of male and female representatives, chosen at the family cluster, village, regional and state levels, serve two-year terms and can be removed from above or below any time their work is not deemed satisfactory, with the 23 pairs of state-level representatives serving as national directors.

The MST also has close relations with the Central Única dos Trabalhadores (CUT) labor federation, the governments of Cuba, Venezuela and Bolivia, among others, and has adopted a policy of critical engagement with the PT. The MST generally supports the PT in elections, as in most recently the re-election of Dilma Rousseff, but protests various elements of government policy that it disagrees with, especially government support for agribusiness, which has grown under Rousseff’s second administration. The government subsidizes social movements’ autonomous construction of around 20,000 housing units per year.

See: “Social Movements,” p. 6

Brazil, US hold joint exercises for Rio Olympic security

from Xinhua Chinese News Agency

The Brazilian navy began a series of joint exercises with its US counterpart in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday as part of preparations for the Olympic Games in August.

In the Guanabara Bay, the two sides carried out a simulated rescue of a ship seized by mock terrorists, near where the Olympic Games’ sailing event will take place.

Brazilian and American marines used a diving support vessel as the target for the simulated hijacking, with two rapid response boats and a helicopter used to board the ship.

“Our training will cover firing, closed space combat, first aid, communications and boarding ships,” said Brazilian captain Luis Guilherme Rabello, in charge of the operation, during the presentation of the exercise.

Navy forces from both countries will work together until mid-April to increase the preparation of Brazilian security forces ahead of the Olympic Games, while agents from other bodies will also take part.

According to Rabello, given an increase in terrorist attacks around the world in recent months, security officials at the Olympic Games have decided to include the profiling of these attacks in their training and planning.

Fighting Gentrification, One Building at a Time Inside Brazil’s Autonomous Housing Movement

by Caroline Barrueco, BrasilWire (Excerpts)

The center of São Paulo mainly comprises commercial, office and abandoned buildings. Most of those who work there can’t afford the rent of the flats downtown, so they must travel to and from the outskirts, a trip that lasts about two hours. São Paulo is a city of 17 million inhabitants.

Gentrification is usually considered to be the urban movement that happens when an area inhabited by people on low income, is “discovered” by the middle class. But it can also happen when properties increase in value through speculation; this is mostly the case in São Paulo, the owners leave properties empty hoping their value will rise.

The neighborhood is soon seen as a point of economic potential and new establishments appear seeking to fulfill the needs of this new wave of people. The cost of living tends to increase and become impractical for the initial residents, who then find themselves impelled to seek new homes, usually in peripheral areas of the city. Price appreciation of property rental is the main reason for the migration of low-income residents to the outskirts.

So how to proceed if the population can neither afford to pay the high property values nor want to live in remote areas, usually with less access and infrastructure? Professor of Architecture and Urbanism Erminia Maricato says that “the proximity of the low income population is the most important antidote to real estate speculation.” Poor people standing their ground, in other words.

The most effective and immediate resistance is from the Brazilian Autonomous Housing Movement. The FLM – Front in the Struggle for Housing, created in 2003, is analogous to the Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST), but acts in urban areas. Today there are approximately 80,000 members. The movement maps abandoned properties downtown and systematically occupies them. Besides FLM there are some other autonomous partnering groups who work in the same way such as MTST – Homeless Workers Movement and MSTC – The Homeless of the Center Movement.

The vast majority in these movements are people who work down town but have been pushed to the peripheral areas. Differing from European squats, which are formed mainly by the artistic community and by people who purposely put themselves in the margin of the capitalist system, Brazilian squats are formed by families of low-income workers, and immigrants who want to establish themselves in the country. Today there are over 60 buildings occupied, in the central region of São Paulo alone.

A few years ago I learned a new building would be occupied, and volunteered to be part of the group that first entered. The first 48 hours are crucial: it is when occupants are most vulnerable, because the police can enter the building if they obtain authorization from the owner to do so. After two days occupants can only be evicted under a court mandate, which occurs if the owner appeals to court

See: “Gentrification,” p. 6

APRIL 23, 2016 ALL OUT ATL STOP THE KLAN - DISRUPT WHITE POWER ORGANIZING ON STONE MOUNTAIN

On April 23rd, the Ku Klux Klan and white nationalists are holding a white power march on Stone Mountain. On the same evening, a racist concert gathering will be held at a yet to be disclosed location. We are coordinating a mass gathering on Stone Mountain to shut down the march and disrupt further white supremacist efforts.

We are mobilizing locally and nationally for a show of anti-racist power on April 23rd at Stone Mountain. Our gathering time and location will be announced closer to the date—keep an eye out for updates.

OUR PRINCIPLES ARE:

- 1. Our solidarity is grounded in a shared opposition to white supremacy.** In our coordinating efforts, we will not tolerate behavior that perpetuates the oppression of marginalized people.
- 2. Police, politicians, and government authorities will not solve the problem of racism for us.** We must rely on ourselves and one another to end white supremacy. We support grassroots, anti-racist coordination in our communities, workplaces, and on the streets.
- 3. We aim to create a culture of trust, solidarity, and support in our mobilization.** We recognize that participants have different ideas, abilities, and perspectives on how to best obstruct white supremacist efforts. Our opposition will be stronger if we understand the diversity of our perspectives and strategies as an asset.
- 4. The diversity of our movement means that no one person can speak on behalf of all participants in the actions against white supremacy.** Similarly, no person can decide the actions someone else should take. Coherent and effective efforts against racism must also include a consciousness of how our actions impact those most vulnerable and at-risk among us.

STONE MOUNTAIN, GA

For thousands of years, Stone Mountain has been a place of ceremonial and administrative importance to the Creek Nation and once served as a neutral zone for the Creek and Cherokee Nations to meet, coordinate, and offer each other help from colonial invaders. In 1821, under the Treaty of Indian Springs, the U.S. Government and State of Georgia seized the mountain from the Creek Nation and in 1845, with the protection of the State of Georgia, the new town of Stone Mountain was settled by whites. Beginning early in the twentieth century, the second incarnation of the Ku Klux Klan, inspired by the film *Birth of a Nation*, began using Stone Mountain as a meeting place and hub of white supremacist activity.

Today, Stone Mountain is a national park located in the city of Stone Mountain, GA, and has been state owned since 1958. Despite this, its long history as a site of organization and of symbolic importance for white nationalists continues. Legally, the mountain is a confederate monument, and is marked by a massive carving of Confederate generals — an effort first initiated by a Klan member and later completed by the state to combat the civil rights movement. For over a century, the KKK has held rallies and meetings at the mountain. Last year, in the aftermath of the mass shooting at a black church in Charleston, SC, Neo-Confederates rallied at Stone Mountain in support of the Confederate symbols.

The following groups endorse the All Out ATL mobilization:

Atlanta Industrial Workers of the World Atlanta Ultras Black Rose North Georgia Bombs Away Collective (Athens) Charlotte Showing Up for Racial Justice (NC) Food Not Bombs Atlanta High Roller Records (AL) Panhandle Progressive Coalition (FL) Savannah Comrades

Please get in contact if your organization agrees with our principles and would like to be added as an endorser.

<https://alloutatl.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/965525166818640/>



100X100 Campaign to Build *Turning the Tide*

Over its 26+ year publishing history, *TTT* has been published in magazine format, as a 24-page tabloid, and from time to time on a bi-monthly basis, six issues a year. For the last few years, economic necessity has dictated that we print four 8-page issues a year. Now, to restore bi-monthly publication, we have launched a fund-raising campaign we've dubbed "100X100."

We need 100 people who will donate \$100 a year, or \$10/mo, for *TTT* to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing nearly 2000 copies of each issue into the prisons.

Turning the Tide doesn't print itself, or mail itself. Some prisoners who get the paper contribute a few stamps; their contribution more often comes by writing articles, letters and poems or sending in drawings. Often, they pass the copy of *TTT* that they received from hand to hand, cell to cell, or they send in the names and addresses of half-a-dozen or more other prisoners. **Prisoners, if you can find donors or subscribers outside prison to subsidize your sub, that would help a lot.**

Postage costs for a single issue of *TTT* are almost \$1000 and climbing. If you can't donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to your Facebook friends, Twitter followers, and email contacts. The future of *Turning the Tide* is in your hands. Now, while you're thinking about it, go to:

<http://gofundme.com/eugzgg>

and donate. Then share it with your contacts. With your help, *Turning the Tide* can step up to the "urgency of now" -- the necessity for radical organizing, educating and analyzing to respond to the growing crisis of the Empire -- endless war, police terror with impunity, mass incarceration, colonialism, ecological devastation that will shortly become irreversible.

If you think *TTT* is a useful tool in the struggle for people's power and a new world, please donate today. If you wish, you can also just send cash, check or money order to:

Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.

Contribute to antifa prisoner Jason Hammond's release fund!

Jason's release date [from Illinois's Vandalia Correctional Center] is currently set for April 13th, 2016! That means he is less than a month away from being back with his friends and family and pick up life where he left off. As of right now we know that he will be on house arrest for some time, he is not sure for how long or what the movement restrictions are going to look like. As many of you know the transition from prison to real life can be tough for many, so in order to ease the stress this page is now Jason's release fund. The money that you all graciously donate from now on will help Jason with getting a phone to be in contact with his PO officer, food, rent, any fees for classes he might be mandated to take, clothes...etc. Thank you so much for your continued support and love! More updates coming soon!!



Jason Hammond, Jeremy's twin brother, accepted a non-cooperating guilty plea and was sentenced to 41 months in prison on January 2015 for his part in an organized direct action taken against a group of white supremacists.

In 2012, a group of racists and white supremacists organized a 'White Nationalist Economic Summit' in the Chicago suburb of Tinley Park. Groups of anti-fascists and anti-racists from the Midwest decided to confront the meeting and successfully shut down their event through a righteous melee. In the aftermath, 5 people were arrested and were dubbed the Tinley Park 5. All five were sentenced to upwards of 3 years and have since been released. Jason is the last person to have been arrested for this

action.

Please read Jason Hammond's sentencing statement for his thoughts and feelings about the situation here: <https://freejeremy.net/2015/01/22/jason-hammond-sentencing-statement/>, as well as Jeremy's statement on his brother's sentencing here: <https://freejeremy.net/2015/01/22/jeremy-hammonds-statement-on-the-plea-and-sentencing-of-his-brother-jason-hammond/>.

Donate here: https://fundrazr.com/0w0Ma?ref=ab_55X4Y3

DEFEND ANAHEIM ANTI-KLAN PROTESTERS!

In Anaheim in February, a Ku Klux Klan rally was met with resistance from local residents and anti-fascists. The KKK responded with stabbings; at least three counter-protesters against the Klan were wounded, and the Klansmen and nazis were beaten down and chased away. Cops made several arrests, but dropped the charges against the KKK members they did arrest, while letting others armed with knives walk away, arresting the victims instead. You can donate to support the anti-Klan protesters and help meet legal and medical expenses at https://fundrazr.com/d16d89?ref=ab_55X4Y3

This unequal treatment of Klan and anti-KKK protesters is one reason we chant

"Blue by Day, White by Night." It is a systematic pattern. For example, William Celli, the dedicated Trump-supporter arrested in northern CA for building a homemade bomb intended for bombing a mosque, received a mere 90 days in jail, 3 years probation and a ban from Facebook after taking a plea deal. Celli was caught with homemade explosives in his home after an anonymous call came into



the police. His entire neighborhood had to be evacuated due to the bomb squad being called in to detonate the explosives. Previously Celli was witnessed threatening to "kill you all" to the Islamic Society of West Contra Costa County and made several posts on his Facebook regarding his hatred of Muslims. Celli's initial charges included a hate crime, but the plea bargain resulted in only one charge, violating the free exercise of civil rights, for which he has to take anger management courses, has 3 years of probation, and can't have a Facebook page. Compare that to the Muslims who have been entrapped by the FBI into alleged bomb plots and sentenced to long federal prison terms.

URGENT APPEAL

We need your financial support to continue sending the paper free to nearly 1800 prisoners around CA and the US.

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at P.O. Box 1055 in Culver City 90232**

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If you're a prisoner and can send stamps or get someone outside the walls to subsidize your subscription, please do so. If you work with an info shop or other zine or record distro, please consider ordering a bundle of TTT to distribute; \$5 will get you 20 copies.

If you live in L.A. or nearby, we can come to house meetings to speak and collect donations for the paper. Email antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH BEYONCE & KENDRICK LAMAR?

by Black Riders Liberation Party Minister of Public Relations E Da Ref

Point A of The Black Commune Program (updated 10 point platform) states that "We ride for total liberation. We ride for POWER to take full control of the Black community." In order to gain real power is to collectively come to a common understanding of what exactly power is. Power is the ability to define phenomenon and make it act in a desired manner. Rather the phenomenon is politics, culture, entertainment or whatever; it must be used to free our minds body and spirit. Total liberation and self-determination must be promoted on a grand scale. Revolution must become a social norm. All our priorities in life should be centered on the liberation of Black people. It should be the topic of discussion at hair salons, barbershops, cafes and dinner tables. In the era of all the distractions, the illusion of inclusion, chaos and confusion; we must utilize every avenue to raise revolutionary consciousness. We are at war for the hearts and minds of the people.

All eyes are on the Black Panthers, and expressions of Black Power are being displayed on mainstream media. Everyone is talking about Beyoncé's performance during the Super Bowl halftime show, where she and her dancers were dressed as Black Panthers performing her song "formation", (which in her music video there are some subliminal anti police terror messages). Beyoncé and her dancers also formed into a "X" formation in honor of Revolutionary Minister Malcolm X. At the end of her performance some of her dancers took a picture with the sign saying "Justice for Mario Woods" (a brother who was shot and killed by the San Francisco Pigs). She has received repressive backlash in response to the performance, from the right wing media and police enforcement agencies. Pig departments in New York and Florida threatened to boycott their labor and refuse to work at Beyoncé's shows. Various Black Nationalist formations have offered security services in support. Rumors are resurfacing about her and Jay-Z bailing out protesters in Baltimore during the Freddy Grey rebellions. Beyoncé is from Houston, TX. The same state where We, the Black Riders Liberation Party along with the Huey P Newton Gun Club, marched on the state capitol, armed with shotguns and High powered Assault Rifles; to Advocate Armed self-defense against police terrorism. It would be damn near impossible to think that this action didn't inspire and influence her aspiration to display the imagery of The Black Panther Party.

The match is lit, and fiery fervor of freedom fighting flavor set ablaze the stage at the Grammy Awards with Kendrick Lamar's performance. He showcased a display in the form of theatre portraying prisoners as the modern day slaves bound and shackled in chains. Wearing the same prison attire looking similar to what The Great General George Jackson and the Soledad Brothers wore, he painted a picture of the prison industrial complex and brought the reality of it being modern day slavery from on the stage in front of thousands of peoples, right through the TV into your living room. Then in the other half of the performance, he displayed in form of theater portraying the breaking of the chains and reconstructing the practice of traditional African culture that Europeans have stolen (and still are stealing) from us. He also showed a gigantic picture of Africa with Compton wrote on the inside to show the historic connection with Black People and Africa. From the dance, to the art and music; this is all spiritually connected. It's bigger than just self-expression, it's a story of struggle fused with the science of vibration that has the power to invoke the rebellious spirit of our ancestors within our people.

The Black Riders Liberation Party was created by General T.A.C.O and other former Bloods and Crips, in Kendrick Lamar's hometown of South Central L.A, all through areas like Compton, Watts and Inglewood. Historically dubbed, "The Red Zone" by The OG Black Panthers largely because the high level hostility from the pigs in L.A where they suffered the most Black Panther casualties in martyrdom. The very place where the 1st S.W.A.T team was ever deployed at the Black Panthers headquarters during a 5 hour shoot-out on 41st and Central Avenue. It also became the "Red Zone" for the Black Riders when General T.A.C.O. and other comrades, marched inside the 108th police station in the year 2000 and defended themselves against the pigs. This bloody battle resulted in General T.A.C.O. being arrested for assault on two police officers, but eventually the case was dismissed. And it is also the home of the Bloods and Crips in which the unification of these street formations is the foundation of how the Black Riders Liberation Party started, right within the prison industrial complex.

It is not a coincidence that Kendrick Illustrated on stage images promoting prison abolition to make a political statement during his performance on such a public platform like at the Grammy Awards show. The Black Riders L.A. Chapter have run into Kendrick Lamar in the streets of L.A on numerous occasions where he was given issues of our newspaper, The African Inter-Communal News Service. All the consciousness we've raised on the streets of LA for 20 years, bringing Bloods and Crips together to ride for Black Liberation, developing a nationwide prison chapter pushing the line for prison abolition; there's no doubt in our mind that he was somehow inspired by work and actions of the Black Riders Liberation Party – New Generation Black Panther Party for Self Defense.

Among the circles of the enlightened, lies a common understanding of revolutionary cultural appropriation used to co-opt the struggle. However, we cannot underestimate the influence of our work. The Mainstream artist and entertainers keep their ear to the street to pick up on what the next hot idea may be. And the ruling elite finds a way to corporatize and commercialize our culture; tearing away the authentic and aesthetic fabric of our soul and spirit that we as African people put in our craft.

So we must continue to keep our boots to the pavement and bombard the masses with REAL BLACK POWER! Culture is a weapon. The culture must be about the gun, the knife, the spear, the shield, and the fight for freedom. It is up to us to preserve our culture by setting an example of the correct representation of revolution through action, so the people will know it's not enough to just dress, look like, and talk like a revolutionary; but you must become a revolutionary to survive and struggle against genocide and extermination of Black people.

We must be the influence and not fall under the influence of the neocolonial bourgeois puppet aristocracy. If we keep up the good work and stay focused, these entertainers will be forced to at least speak out on the inhumane conditions that we as oppressed people are subjected to, and at the most advocate revolutionary armed struggle, due to the repressive backlash of fascism, which will back them into the corners of the ghetto colonies where the culture dwells and where Black Panthers are being created to strike back at white supremacy. The clash between the oppressed and the oppressor is inevitable. The outcome of all of this sensation is really up to us. If we don't take advantage of this surge of aspiration for information about the struggle for liberation and self-determination, then the capitalist elite ruling class will. Whatever curveball is thrown at us to co-opt, corporatize and commercialize the culture of revolution, will backfire on the enemy like a broken muffler on a car. We have nothing to lose but our chains and we will win for revolution; complete constructive, change!!!

BLACK POWER!! ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!!



Free Black People in Flint, Michigan

On January 22, 2016 and again on February 20, 2016, the Black Riders Liberation Party's Detroit Chapter delivered 1675+ gallons of water donated to the people of Flint, Michigan, where there is a water contamination crisis. Over half of the city of Flint's population is people of African descent.

The water in Flint is polluted with so many toxic chemicals; the people can't drink it, bathe in it, cook, or clean with it. This is a Human Rights violation! The act of neglect by the US Government not fixing this crisis is an act of Chemical Biological Warfare on the Black community! "Ten people have died from legionnaires disease as well as from high levels of lead poisoning of our brothers and sisters out here," reports Comrade Shamita. There is no way that any area surrounded by the Great Lakes region of Michigan, (which has fresh water in abundance) should not have access to clean water!

The Black Commune Program (updated 10 point platform of OG BPP) Article L states:

"We Ride for an end to environmental racism and to stop the destruction of Earths Ecological Balance. We Ride because we believe that Amerikkkan Industrial Production has and is currently creating terrible environmental side effects locally, nationally and internationally, especially where Black People live. Industrial Production causes pollution of Air, Land and Water, which in turn lowers the life expectancy of people. If the racist U.S Industrialists refuse to do so, then his industry should be taken and placed in the Black Community so we can protect the environment and our own people."

We dropped off cases of water at a senior citizens home, as well as some Women & Children's transitional homes. We also had a chance to hear the voices of the people of



Flint up close and personal. "We found out that certain parts of Flint have a wood piping infrastructure for the water system. That's Messed up," reported Comrade Kofi.

Not too long before this mission, Black Riders' National Minister of Defense King Samir Shabazz gave a step by step tutorial about how to purify and filter water on the Black Survival and General Civilization Class Series, on Do the knowledge Radio channel of

Blogtalkradio.com. This was a national cadre effort to put this together. Shout out to all those who participated. Thanks to all those who supported and donated to this project. Shout out to Read Yo Radio for documenting this moment in history. And Shout out to New Era Detroit for the inspiration setting an example in action by serving the people of Flint Michigan. Shout out to Sister Comrade Jackie Stevenson for helping put together both projects and traveling all the way from the New York Chapter to Flint, Michigan to help pass out water. **RBG 4 LIFE! FREE FLINT!**

Note: On. Feb. 28, 2016, the Black Riders L.A. chapter held a free food giveaway to Black men, women and children to meet the immediate needs and desires of oppressed people.

Black Power! All Power to the People!

...Continued from p. 3

The ‘poor,’ designates the category of people who do not count, those who have no qualifications for being taken into account (p.123)”

Hence the elite need to demonize the popular organizations on the left and their icons, demoralising them as much as possible.

The political strategy to push the middle class to defend the interests of the elites is always the same: throw leftist leaders into the mass grave of corruption where capitalism feasts.

Globo is manufacturing consent to increase bias and destabilise a country that has made significant gains against social inequality. But the key point for now is that the right to govern is about to be taken away from the descendants of the Senzala.

Bruno De Oliveira is a Ph.D. student at the University of Brighton. His research is based on analyzing the life experience of homeless people through participatory research.

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

...Continued from p. 3

According to program guidelines, the deeds to these properties are automatically registered in the name of the woman of the household.

In 2015, the MST, other social movements like the Homeless Workers’ Movement (MTST), and the CUT and Central dos Trabalhadores e Trabalhadoras do Brasil labor union federations, protested a congressional bill that would increase companies’ ability to outsource, and against austerity measures proposed by Rousseff’s neo-liberal finance minister, Joaquim Levy. The protesters were attacked by police in front of the Federal Congress building and several were hospitalized.

The MST supports socialism, favoring construction by means of Gramscian counterhegemony over armed revolt as a strategy for achieving this. They still support the PT because, although they value the criticism raised by left parties such as the PSOL (Socialism & Freedom Party) and PSTU (United Socialist Workers’ Party), they don’t see them as capable of gaining electoral power.

On the other hand, how does the movements’ public support for a political party that has been in power for 13 years and been involved in a series of corruption scandals, affect the ability to mobilize naturally rebellious young people in the movements?

Membership in the social movement leadership and rank and file is aging and with the surge of evangelical Christianity among the poor, the weakened ecclesiastical base communities are no longer capable of introducing large numbers of young people into the movements. One of the biggest challenges that the MST and other social movements face is how to mobilize youth in the struggle for agrarian and urban reform. In the current shifting political climate, it will be interesting to see if and how they meet this challenge.

Original version of this article published at CEPR.

THE MOVEMENT INSIDE TEXAS PRISONS WILL NOT BE COMPLETE UNTIL THE SISTERS JOIN!

By: Keith ‘Malik’ Washington (Excerpts) <http://comrademalik.com/2016/02/10/the-movement-inside-texas-prisons-will-not-be-complete-until-the-sisters-join/>

Revolutionary Greetings Comrades! This one right here is for the sisters! The Black, Latina, White, Asian, Arab, Lesbian, Straight, and Transgender Sisters, who have found themselves trapped inside these slave camps and gulags operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. I spend countless hours reading and scanning alternative newspapers, journals, and magazines that provide a platform for prisoners who write. I read the San Francisco Bay View every month, and although I see lots of pen-pal ads coming out of Gatesville, Texas, I don’t see many revolutionary essays or articles being written by female Texas prisoners!!

I know you all can’t be content with the conditions you are being housed under, and I know for a fact, you are not being given the dignity and respect you deserve. So I must ask: “Why aren’t we hearing from you?!” Please listen to me; these folks got us up in here workin’ for FREE! Then to add insult to injury, they have set-up this fake-ass Good-Time and Work-Time Credit System that is not getting us back our families any earlier! Now I know some of you are tired of hearing your babies say: “Mommy, when you comin’ home, we miss you?!”

There is something you can do to control your own destiny.

The New Afrikan Black Panther Party (Prison Chapter) in Texas has helped initiate a campaign which is focused on Ending Prison Slavery in Texas!! From

...Continued from p. 3

with a request for repossession of the property, this is often a lengthy a complex process.

The night when we went to occupy the building, it seemed that no one knew exactly where they were going or what the history of the place was. In single file, we ran down a dark downtown alley, some people broke down a door. It was a direct and efficient response to the effects of gentrification.

The ‘Right to the City’ concept that was developed in the book “Le droit à la ville” published in 1968 by the French philosopher Henri Lefebvre, is in fact a part of the Brazilian law guides.

The housing movements are enforcing the law. And they are very careful in doing so. A few hours after entering the building, the movement’s leaders (yes there is a clear hierarchy within the movement, another difference between these and the European squats) soon organized to collect all the small objects found within the old hotel, and lock them up in a room to make sure no one would take ownership of unrelated objects. In general you can not enter the occupation after 11 pm and alcoholic beverages are prohibited. There are several rules that besides trying to guarantee a good relationship between neighbors, legally protect the act of occupying and their supporters.

In addition to quickly “resolve” the issue of having a place to live, the housing movements wants to pressure public bodies, about creating an efficient program for affordable housing.

The city mayor Fernando Haddad indeed listened to their claim, and in October of this year put into effect a progressive Property Tax amendment, (Emenda do IPTU Progressivo) which aims to transform abandoned buildings of the city center into affordable housing. Here is how it works: the owners of properties that have more than 60% of its area without function will be notified by the city. If within a year the property still has no social function, the tax levied on the property begins to gradually increase until by the seventh year of abandonment, the property passes to a cost 20% of its gross value in taxes, and can finally be bought by the city to be transformed into housing.

“In the broad area of São João avenue where the plan aims to repopulate, there are located 24 of the 78 properties that will be reported in the first wave, there are certainly empty buildings which are not fulfilling their mission. Unhappy owners can attempt to fight in court. From their perspective, even if they may be using their properties in such a way that has an adverse effect on the city, the expectation of future profits -or what is called “speculation” – is what matters “ explains the urban planner Raquel Rolnik on her blog.

The Right to the City of Lefebvre, would not only be the right to housing, but the right to live in the city and enjoy it:

Currently the center of Sao Paulo is not exactly an ‘enjoyable’ area. With virtually no public places to hang out, and a total absence of squares or wooded areas, it is difficult to use the city as a place to exchange experiences.

There are some policies that are trying to change that, for example, encouraging the construction of Parklets – living areas that occupy the place of one or two car spaces, but it turns out that living in public spaces is not part of the

the very beginning I told my support network that there is no way that this campaign could be successful by just calling on men who are incarcerated in Texas – NO! That wouldn’t work!! I have been motivated by the work of Laura Whitehorn, Victoria Law, Safiyya Bukhari, Angela Y. Davis, and Assata Shakur!! I know our sisters in Texas have something meaningful to contribute to this struggle.

WHO WILL BE THE NEXT KATHY GRIFFIN?!

She came from humble beginnings growing up in rural Mississippi – Heidelberg I believe.

She had, and still has natural gifts; beauty, intelligence, and musical talents. Her father Ed Townsend, penned the smash hit “Let’s Get It On,” made famous by superstar Marvin Gaye. She came to Houston to attend college at Texas Southern University. She got introduced to the “Fast-Life,” fast money, fast cars, and drugs that take you down the wrong path fast! She became easy prey for those engaged in human trafficking! Before she knew what was happening, her world had spun out of control and she was headed down the road in a “Blue Bird” serving time inside a prison unit operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Many people marvel at the fact that I know so much about her. But, I have news for you, the story is not over, in fact it’s just begun. You see, Kathy Griffin-Grinin has overcome tremendous obstacles to become a leading voice in the fight against Human Trafficking! Pimps beware, the “game” done changed!

culture or lives of the residents of the center.

For around 5 years now, some collectives such as Voodoohop, Parque Augusta and Anhangabahoots have been encouraging temporary occupations, parties in public spaces and inside squats. These parties have attracted many people, bringing attention to abandoned parks or previously unknown places.

With that, people are starting to feel like the city is theirs, and maybe even feel responsible for it.

“We are reactivating this spontaneous potential to occupy the city. The party as a meeting of all the arts, of living experience, not as a repetition of a formula ” says Laura Diaz, producer of Mamba Negra, an offshoot party from the Voodoohop collective. “This movement of people going back to squares and public spaces in areas they previously had a degraded image of, is a gain for the city, the problem is that soon the market takes it and transforms everything into brands and consumption. Local markets also raise prices, trying to gain an advantage from it“

From this new demand that the city is creating, private initiatives are filling the gap left by the city management, such as the Citybikes in São Paulo which are run by corporations. And these brands are aimed at the potential customers of the middle-class audience, again marginalizing the other residents.

So people that are organizing those occupations in the city are experiencing these kind of issues, how to be an itinerant movement, present the possibility of resumption of the city as a spontaneous meeting point, without consuming the place as a product and without starting a gentrifying movement that eventually harasses the residents of their own neighborhoods?

“If we are upset about this, we need to change some of our attitudes, find ways to transcend the ”party” and use that act in a more combative form, see this moment as a libertarian experience. But this all depends on what we propose, the place we choose and especially those with whom we do it,” says Laura Diaz

These issues are quite complex and we can not be sure of the consequences of our choices. To be open to meetings and to know where one is and what is going on in that place, is the untransferable responsibility of each of us.

Cities are constantly changing, and we can all be agents of change in what we wish to happen. Attitudes like these movements struggling for housing and temporary occupation of the city are helping to turn São Paulo into a more “livable” city, almost pleasant, and also pressing the government to take public policy attitudes.

And this has also begun to be noticed by the authorities: after about four years of making free parties in the centre, completely autonomously, since 2013, Voodoohop began a partnership with the city government to produce SP NA RUA (Video), a festival that happens over one night, and brings together over 15 party collectives, to provide a completely open and free festival in the streets of the old city.

When people show themselves it gets harder to ignore them. São Paulo has a clear message: if rents are expensive, we occupy abandoned buildings, if we do not have parks, we picnic on the asphalt.

Caroline Barrueco is a São Paulo based Brazilian writer. science & civil disobedience enthusiast.

Kathy did a few years in TDCJ and got the attention of some key individuals who gave her a second chance. Kathy never was the type to look a gift-horse in the mouth. She grabbed a hold of her “Hope Shot” and never turned back! Former Houston City Councilman Jarvis Johnson and current Texas Representative Dr. Alva Allen believed in Kathy. Kathy got a job volunteering at the Harris County Jail, one of the largest county jails in the U.S. Kathy helped girls just like herself that had been subdued by the “Street Life.” Slowly Kathy earned the respect of the new Sheriff Adrian Garcia. Sheriff Garcia saw something special in this woman who used to be addicted to drugs and alcohol. Kathy came up with a reentry program for women who were victims of human trafficking. Houston, Texas is a hub for those trapped in the bondage that is Human Trafficking – Prostitution, Drugs and Crime, all salient topics when discussing this subject.

Kathy went from being a volunteer at the jail to an employee, and then on to become the program’s eventual director of “Been There Done That!”(*) Kathy’s program is one of the first of its kind in the nation! A program that helps women to reclaim their worth and restores them to the place in society they should be. Never to be one that rests on her laurels, Kathy became an out-spoken prisoner rights advocate. It wasn’t long before Kathy got the attention of one of the most famous and successful prisoner rights advocates in Texas. *See “Sisters,” p. 7* (*) Reentry program for victims of Human Trafficking!

PRISON "SECURITY/WELFARE CHECKS" SLEEP SURVEY

Who we are: The Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition (PHSS) originated in the SF Bay Area in 2011 to amplify the voices of CA prisoners on hunger strike striving to achieve their Five Core Human Rights Demands. It is made up of family members and loved ones, formerly incarcerated people, grassroots organizations, lawyers, and individuals. The coalition continues to work in solidarity with CA prisoners and their families to end the torture that is solitary confinement.

Why we are conducting this survey:

Beginning as early as 2013, many prisoners throughout the CA prison system - housed in SHU's, AdSeg and on death row - have reported guards doing "security/welfare checks" every 30 minutes, 48 times a day. We've been told that the start dates of these checks have varied at different prisons. Some prisoners say the checks are extremely noisy and disruptive, result in denial of sleep, and cause harmful side effects. We wish to document what is occurring in the various solitary units throughout CA prisons with regard to "security/welfare checks."

Please respond in writing to the questions on the survey and return your response to PHSS at the address at the bottom. Thank you!

1. Name of Prison _____ Since when? _____
2. When did "security/welfare checks" begin? _____
3. How frequently do they occur? ___/hour; ___/day
4. Is there a difference between the frequency at night and during the day? YES / NO
5. If so, how many times an hour? day ___/hr; night ___/hr
6. Is this the 1st time they've occurred? Y/N
7. Please describe the sounds/noises. For example, what are the sounds? Loud? Do they echo?
8. Please describe the behavior of guards when they conduct the "security/welfare checks." For example, are they quiet, noisy, do they take a long time to pass cells, rap keys against the bars, jangle keys, say anything?
9. How do the checks affect your ability to sleep, such as amount of time you sleep, how deeply you sleep, how many times you wake up, how long you are awake?
10. Before the checks began, how well did you sleep and how much sleep did you get?
11. How do the checks affect your ability to function and perform mental & physical tasks?
12. How have the checks affected your mood, feelings, and attitudes?
13. Has anything helped such as the provision of ear plugs, being moved to a lower tier, or guard training resulting in quieter checks?
14. Have you filed complaint(s) regarding the "security/welfare checks?" YES / NO
15. Date complaint(s) filed? _____ Still pending? YES / NO
16. Outcome(s)?
17. Have you consulted with anyone about the checks such as an attorney? YES / NO
18. Outcome?
19. Do you think the checks could be done differently to be less disruptive to your sleep? YES / NO
20. If yes, what would you want to change?
21. Do you know if the checks have impacted other people in the area near you? YES / NO
22. If yes, please explain:
23. Any additional comment(s)?

We won't identify you in our report, but we may reference anonymously some of your answers.

Do we have your permission to share your identifying info with the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture as part of a human rights complaint? YES / NO

Your Name, Date, Prison, CDCr# _____

PHSS thanks you very much for helping us by completing this survey.

Please send answers to:

**PHSS, c/o California Prison Focus,
1904 Franklin St, Ste 507,
Oakland, CA 94612**

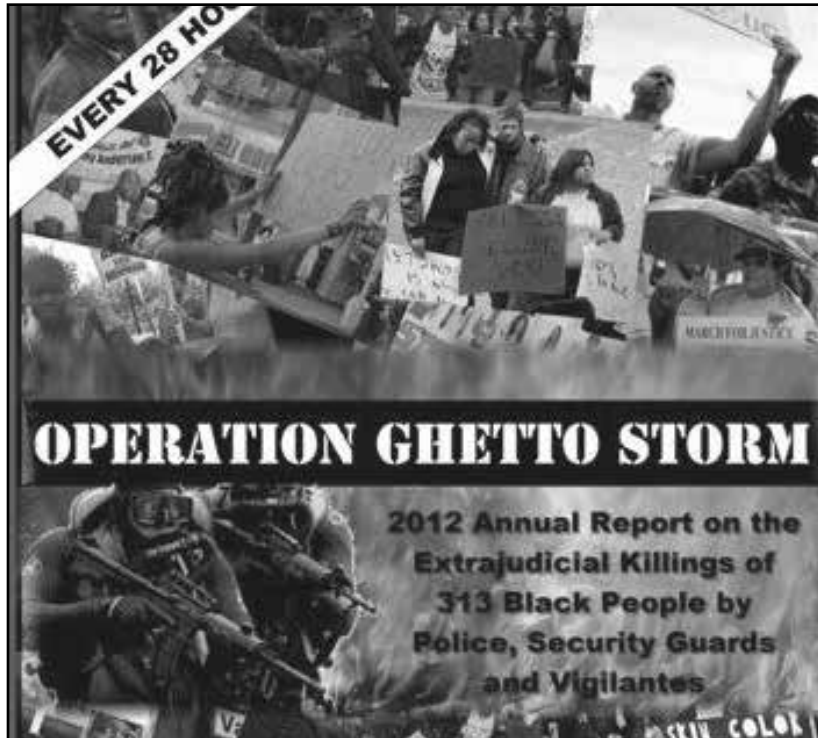
For more info about us: 510-426-5322
<https://prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com/>

Courage Against Racism: Black Lives Matter-LA Fundraiser featuring #Every28Hours author Arlene Eisen & panel discussion Saturday, April 30 at 5 PM - 7 PM

Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church, 301 N Orange Grove Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91103

by Dahlia Ferlito, White People for Black Lives

Join us for a presentation by Arlene Eisen, co-author of *Operation Ghetto Storm* (also known as the #every28hours report), which first documented how a Black person is killed by police, security guards or vigilantes every 28 hours. The Report also cast light on the painful truth that these state-sponsored killings are part of a comprehensive system of containment of Black people that ranges from criminalization, surveillance, profiling, mass incarceration, to military occupation and death. "These unrelenting challenges to Black peoples' survival and human rights persist because they are deeply rooted in U.S. history of settler colonialism and slavery that created tightly woven structures of white supremacy needed to sustain today's U.S. Empire. The resistance of the people of Ferguson, Baltimore and beyond show us that until Black and Brown communities organize for a massive, long-haul struggle to uproot this system, the killings will continue." -- Arlene Eisen, www.operationghettostorm.org (AKA #every28hours Report)



between White People 4 Black Lives, the Sierra Club, and the Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church.

White People 4 Black Lives (WP4BL) is a white anti-racist collective and activist project of the Alliance of White Anti-Racists Everywhere (AWARE-LA). We also operate within a national network of white anti-racists called Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). Our work is rooted in showing up for racial justice and acting in solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives, and more specifically in alliance with Black Lives Matter: Los Angeles. This event is co-sponsored by The Sierra Club. Send us an email if you'd like to get involved:

whitepeople4racialjustice@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1684015955219463/>

National Demands endorsed by Black Lives Matter

- We demand an end to all forms of discrimination and the full recognition of our human rights.
- We demand an immediate end to police brutality and the murder of Black people and all oppressed people.
- We demand full, living wage employment for our people.
- We demand decent housing fit for the shelter of human beings and an end to gentrification.
- We demand an end to the school to prison pipeline & quality education for all.
- We demand freedom from mass incarceration and an end to the prison industrial complex.
- We demand a racial justice agenda from the White House that is inclusive of our shared fate as Black men, women, trans and gender-nonconforming people. Not My Brother's Keeper, but Our Children's Keeper.
- We demand access to affordable healthy food for our neighborhoods.
- We demand an aggressive attack against all laws, policies, and entities that disenfranchise any community from expressing themselves at the ballot.
- We demand a public education system that teaches the rich history of Black people and celebrates the contributions we have made to this country and the world.
- We demand the release of all U.S. political prisoners.
- We demand an end to the military industrial complex that incentivizes private corporations to profit off of the death and destruction of Black and Brown communities across the globe.

Endorsing organizations: *Justice League, Millennial Activists United, Black Lives Matter, Trans Women of Color Collective, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Dream Defenders, Black and Brown People Vote, Million Hoodies Movement for Justice, African American Policy forum, ThinkMoor, Unchained, BYP 100, Freedom Side, Ohio Students Association, Hands Up UNited and the Organization for Black Struggle*

SISTERS: JOIN THE STRUGGLE INSIDE TEXAS PRISONS!

...Continued from p. 6

Ray Hill is a legend in Texas! He has fought for the rights of Texas prisoners for decades! 34 or 35 years ago, Ray started broadcasting on KPFT 90.1 FM, a Pacifica Network affiliate in Texas; Ray hosted a show he created entitled: "The Prison Show!" In 2012, after about (33) years of dedicated service, Ray decided it was time to hand the reins over to someone else.

Ray had two people in mind and one was the illustrious Anthony Graves! Anthony was convicted of a crime he didn't commit, and was sentenced to death in the state of Texas!! As many of you know Texas leads the nation in the execution of human beings!! However, Texas also leads the nation in payments paid out to people who have been falsely convicted.

Anthony Graves served 18½ years in Texas; most of those years were spent on Texas' Death Row! Death Row in Texas is one of the most inhumane environments in the world! From the very beginning Anthony insisted that he was innocent and eventually it was proven without a shadow of a doubt – Anthony has been incredibly active since his release he was invited to speak to Congress in Washington, D.C. on the topic of torture and Solitary

Confinement in U.S. prisons. Graves told Congress about the horrific conditions he endured while housed on Texas' Death Row!

Graves is a heavily-sought-after speaker for groups all over the world who oppose the Death Penalty. Because of that, Ray Hill had to pair Graves up with someone who spent more of their time in the city of Houston; Kathy Griffin was a perfect candidate. On top of having her own story of survival along with her history of prisoner rights advocacy, Kathy has experience in the world of entertainment performing on stage with "Parliament," "Funkadelic," and the amazing George Clinton!

"The Prison Show!" airs between 9PM – 11PM every Friday (Central Time), her voice electrified the airwaves, her personality magnetic! It wasn't long before I found myself listening to the show every week. At the time, I was housed at one of the most abusive solitary confinement units in Texas, the (High Security) W.J. Estelle Unit, located in Huntsville, Texas.

I witnessed many acts of prisoner abuse and racism while housed at the Estelle High Security!! No one seemed to care – then I met Kathy!!

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TURNING THE TIDE

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Water, Food and Shelter are Basic Human Rights

INSIDE

- ### UPCOMING EVENTS:
- ★ Thurs, 4/14, 7p, L.A. White People 4 Black Lives whitepeople4racialjustice@gmail.com
 - ★ Apr. 23, Disrupt the KKK & White Supremacy at Stone Mountain, GA: see p. 4
 - ★ Sat, 4/30 5p #Every28Hours presentation & panel Neighborhood UU, Pasadena #BLMLA Fundraiser w Arlene Eisen, Melina Abdullah, Michael Novick see p.7
 - ★ 100X100 Fundraising Campaign for TTT gofundme.com/eugzgg
 - ★ Sun., May 1-Intl Workers Day, LA - Olympic & Figueroa, 10 AM & elsewhere
 - ★ May 5 Cinco de Mayo - Celebrate Mexico's victory over the French Empire
www.antiracist.org, facebook.com/tideturning, ara-la.tumblr.com

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- MUMIA ABU JAMAL

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innocence.



Black Riders Free Water Giveaway in Flint, Free Food Giveaway in Los Angeles



Peru peasants protest for water sovereignty, US homeless demand homes not jails

- ★ Water, Water Every-where, Nor Any Drop to Drink
 - ★ Sisters in TX Prison
 - ★ Mumia on Mondo & the War on Drugs
 - ★ Anti-Klan Actions in Anaheim & Stone Mt.
 - ★ #Every28Hours event #BLM Fundraiser Sat Apr 30
 - ★ Sleep Deprivation
 - ★ Black Riders Food & Water Give-aways
 - ★ Focus on Brazil
 - ★ and Much More!
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