

# TORTURED BY BLUE: The Chicago Police Torture Story

by Chicago Torture Victims Mark Clements, Marvin Reeves, Ronald Kitchen in collaboration with Stanley Howard; Balboa Press (available from Amazon)  
Reviewed by Military Resistance Newsletter

Not only did the Chicago Police Department blatantly, repeatedly and criminally detain, threaten and torture African-American citizens of that city starting in the early 1980s, they tried covering it up with the aid of Illinois state officials, thereby compounding the original crime which was, evidently, not enough for them. We now have, via Balboa Press and Amazon (at \$19.99), a record of these savage proceedings testified to by the victims themselves, a people's voice if there ever was one.

This book details the violence of veteran, white police officers deliberately torturing young black men (the book provides details) in order to wring confessions from them to crimes they didn't commit. Once confessions were extracted, victims were imprisoned and several placed on Death Row for years before the cops' crime(s) were exposed by the torture victims themselves.

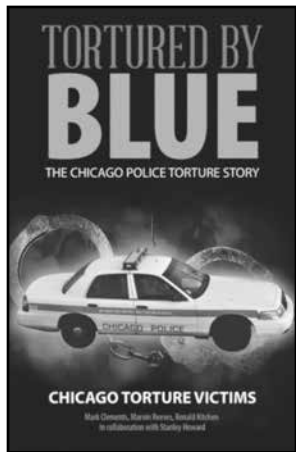
Most importantly these victims didn't remain silent. They engaged a community roused by reports from relatives relating the barbarism, until justice was in sight; though not totally achieved since some remain in prison still struggling for elusive justice's attention. Rallies, demonstrations at state and local government offices pressured politicians to the point where the unspeakable could no longer remain known only to a relative few.

Revealing the crimes to their community was a brilliant and necessary strategy, thereby accomplishing fusion of prisoner-victims with their supporters, to help create this unforgettable

and undeniable record now existent for public consumption.

Some of the most stirring chapters in the book depict the formation and activism (all in prison) of the "Death Row 10" principally involved in the exposition of crimes committed against them and the long, difficult but determined road to retribution. Four of the Death Row sentences were commuted by Illinois Governor Ryan in 2000.

Political roadblocks to justice were provided by then-Mayor Richard Daley, among others, a series of state's attorneys, and not least, the now familiar conspiracy of silence in blue, championed by chief torturer notorious police commander Jon Burge. It took immense amounts of courage and resolve to struggle against such odds — repeated court appointments/postponements, frequent faulty legal advice or representation, prejudicial hearings - but



Survivors of Chicago Police torture spoke out, organized, sued with the help of the Peoples Law Office and won \$5.5 million in reparations plus programs for Chicago schools.

that's what took place and at least now in the public record, documentation exists as a tribute to those who originated and maintained the struggle resulting in this book.

"Tortured By Blue" goes beyond a local, isolated crime but reverberates nationally, directly connecting to the unspeakable portion of history that much of white U.S. still won't admit to nor even recognize. Moreover, in deeper ways, it reflects the original sin of slavery by bringing to mind this country's treatment of captured: Africans and the inhumanity that followed.

From the victim's point of view, the record now stands bare for all — a document from and by the source without hint of intimidation or influence from external elements. That alone makes it priceless. We now have more than a historical reference book but a bible of crimes, some still unresolved.

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## Panthers Organize Shutdown of Newark Prison Construction: No Prison Fridays

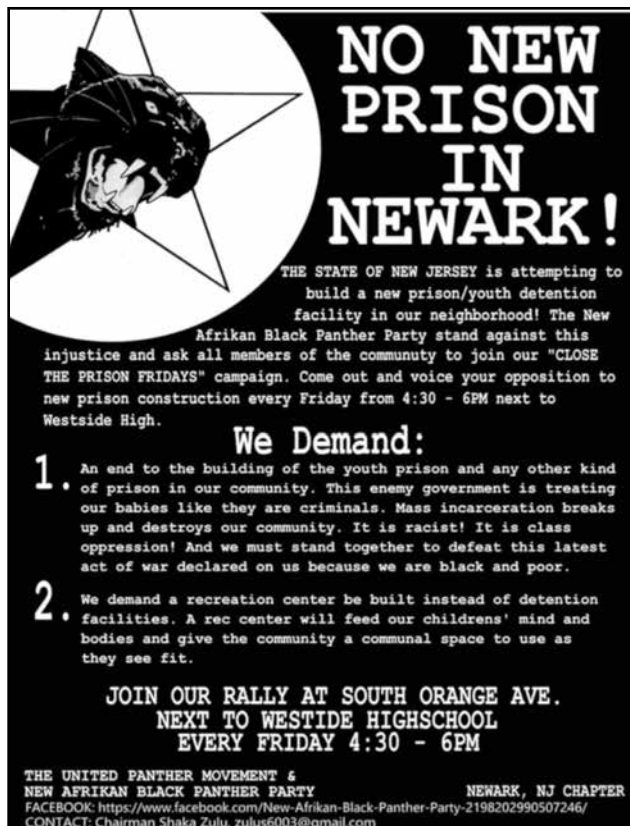
by Kevin "Rashid" Johnson, MOD, NABPP

Under the leadership of Chairman Shaka Sankofa Zulu, the New Afrikan Black Panther Party, and its mass organization the United Panther Movement, has been organizing "No Prison Fridays" protests in Newark NJ since April.

These mass rallies, which quickly grew from a few dozen to several hundred protesters from local communities, began in opposition to plans by New Jersey officials to build a youth prison in Newark on South Orange Avenue, a couple of blocks from Westside High School.

This youth prison and its planned location brought home to Newark's resource-starved urban population, the reality of the "school-to-prison pipeline," targeted especially at poor communities of color.

With the rallying cry, "Build Communities, Not Prisons!" the Friday protests have raised broad public awareness of the role of U.S. prisons as weapons of counter-insurgency, serving to repress and contain marginalized communities. While operating as a multibillion dollar industry for prison profiteers and the politicians whose pockets they



line, they feed off the misery and deprivation of those communities.

The protests also made the connection between modern prisons and the old chattel slavery system, with the slogan: "Fighting from 1619 to 2019!" 1619 marked the year the first Afrikans were brought as slaves to the English North American colony.

*Although the protests appear to have forestalled construction at the S. Orange Ave. site, they continue on the basis of stopping any effort to revive the project elsewhere in Newark or NJ.--Ed.*

For more information, see <https://www.facebook.com/NewAfrikanBPP/>

Write to: Kevin Johnson  
#264847

IDOC-Pendleton Correctional Facility  
GMU 20-2C  
4490 W. Reformatory Road  
Pendleton IN 46064

(Rashid is a VA prisoner who has been moved to Indiana)

## Lifer Legal: Civil Litigation Services for Prisoners

Lifer Legal Clinic provides full service legal representation in civil court, typically on a contingency basis, to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people to help them recover property (cash and houses) that were stolen from them as a result of their long-term prison sentences. If you think you've been the victim of theft or have been cut out of an inheritance, please contact Peter Borenstein by phone at 323-378-3402 or by letter at P.O. Box 885, Culver City, CA 90232.

You may have civil claims worth thousands of dollars against people on the outside who stole from you as a result of your long-term incarceration. Review the following questions below:

• Did one or both of your parents pass away while you were incarcerated?

○ Did they have property (money, land, a house) that they wanted to leave to you?

○ Did they have a will?

○ Did they have a family trust?

○ Did you ever receive any of that property?

○ Has anyone contacted you about that property?

If the answer is yes to these questions, you may have a claim that we can help you with.

• Did you own property or a business before you were incarcerated?

○ What happened to the property or business?

○ Was the property/business sold or given to someone during your incarceration?

○ Was the property/business still earning money when you went to prison?

○ Have you received any money from the

property/business since you were incarcerated? If the answer is yes to these questions, you may have a claim that we can help you with.

You can own property/houses/businesses while you're in prison!

You do not lose your right to own property because you are incarcerated.

Contact Peter Borenstein, Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 885, Culver City, CA 90232  
323-378-3402

to discuss your legal options with Lifer Legal

**Ed. note: Lifer Legal Clinic does not handle defense representation in criminal cases or at the appellate level.**

# Galloping Greenhouse Gases Imperil the Planet

by Robert Hunziker [excerpts from Counterpunch: <https://www.counterpunch.org/2019/05/21/custers-laststand-meets-global-warming/>]

A recent article in *Arctic News* on the outlook for global warming foresees a frightening scenario lurking right around the corner. Hopefully, the article's premise of impending runaway global warming ("RGW") is off the mark, by a lot. More to the point, off by really a lot in order to temper the sting expected when abrupt temperature increases hit hard, as projected in the article, which is entitled: "Greenhouse Gas Levels Keep Accelerating."

Here's a snippet: "... such a rise in greenhouse gas levels has historically corresponded with more than 10°C or 18°F of warming, when looking at greenhouse gas levels and temperatures over the past 800,000 years..." (Source: Greenhouse Gas Levels Keep Accelerating, Arctic News, May 1, 2019)



Thawing permafrost in the Arctic is releasing trapped methane, accelerating climate change.

Obviously, it goes without saying no sane person wants to believe, and likely won't believe or accept, studies about killer temperatures locked, loaded, and ready to fire, right around the corner. That fact alone serves to christen the title "Custer's Last Stand Meets Global Warming."

Furthermore, and for journalistic balance, it is important to mention that mainstream science is not warning of imminent Runaway Global Warming ("RGW"), as outlined in the Arctic News article.

Still, the article does have credibility because it is the product of academic scientists. Therefore, metaphorically speaking, one can only hope that their Ouija boards were out-of-whack, misinterpreting the data.

Alas, the Arctic News article would not be out there if only the U.S. Senate had taken seriously Dr. James Hansen's early warnings about global warming way back in 1988. The New York Times headline d/d June 24, 1988 read: "Global Warming Has Begun, Expert Tells Senate."

Curiously enough, ten years later, in 1998, the process of assembling the International Space Station ("ISS") commenced as approved by Congress, which included 100% solar power. But, ignoring the obvious, no solar initiatives were suggested for the country, not even mentioned. In fact, ever since Dr. Hansen's warning of 40 years ago, Congress is MIA, a big fat nada, not even one peep or word about efforts to contain global warming.

As such, it's really no surprise (but somewhat shocking) that a Children's Climate Crusade, originating in Sweden, is brewing and stewing about the global warming crisis, and they're addressing a very long list of failures by "the establishment." Honestly, does it take children to figure this one out?

The Arctic News article is a haunting commentary on the current and future status of global warming, as follows: The article describes a powerful combination of greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) in combination with oceans and ice taking up ever-less planetary heat, threaten life on Earth within a decade.

According to the article: "So, how fast and by how much could temperatures rise? As oceans and ice are taking up ever less heat, rapid warming of the lower



Melting ice sheets in Greenland and elsewhere are raising sea levels and reducing the albedo effect, warming the seas further.

troposphere could occur very soon. When including the joint impact of all warming elements ... abrupt climate change could result in a rise of as much as 18°C or 32.4°F by 2026. This could cause most life on Earth (including humans) to go extinct within years," Ibid.

That can't possibly be true, or can it? The good news is nobody knows 100% for sure. But, here's the rub: Some really smart well-educated scientists think it could happen, in fact they are almost sure it will happen. According to the article, the setup for the worst-case scenario is falling into place much faster, and sooner, than ever thought possible. It's highly recommended that interested parties read the entire article, Google: Greenhouse Gas Levels Keep Accelerating, Arctic News, May 1, 2019.

Based upon the article, civilization has been living on borrowed time, meaning, the oceans as well as glacial and ocean-bearing ice have been absorbing up to 95% of the planet's heat, thus, minimizing atmospheric global warming and saving civilization from a bad heat stroke.

However, those two huge natural buffers are losing their mojo, kinda fast. Increasingly, extreme ocean stratification and heavy loss of ice minimize the effectiveness of those two crucial buffers to rapid global warming. Consequently, forcing the atmosphere to take up more and more, and way too much more, planetary heat, leading to bursts of global temperatures when least expected, the Custer's Last Stand moment.

One of the primary causes of upcoming acceleration of global warming includes a very recent study about nitrous oxide, N<sub>2</sub>O, which is 300xs more potent than CO<sub>2</sub> and has a lifetime of 120 years, found in huge quantities (67B tons) in Arctic permafrost, to wit: "The study by Wilkerson, et al (<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.8b02271>) shows that nitrous oxide emissions from thawing Alaskan permafrost are about twelve times higher than previously assumed. A 2018 analysis (<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.8b02271>) by

Yang et al points at the danger of large nitrous oxide releases from thawing permafrost in Tibet. Even more nitrous oxide could be released from Antarctica," Ibid.

N<sub>2</sub>O, the third most important GHG, is an intensely effective molecule that impacts global warming 300xs more than CO<sub>2</sub>. That is an enormous, big time, impact. In that regard, the rate of current N<sub>2</sub>O emissions is extremely concerning. According to recent research, nitrous oxide is being released from melting permafrost "12xs higher than previously assumed." That could be a sure-fire formula for helping to turbocharge global warming, and it lends supporting evidence to the underlying thesis of the Arctic News article.

So long as bad news is the order of the day, in addition to N<sub>2</sub>O as a powerful GHG (greenhouse gas), it is also an ozone depleting substance, uh-oh, which brings to mind shades of The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer of 1987, an international treaty designed to save civilization's big fat ass.

For those who missed class back in the day (1987), the ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) layer of Earth's stratosphere (10-30 miles above ground level) absorbs most of the Sun's ultraviolet

radiation, without which Homo sapiens would be toast!

Ozone is widely dispersed in the atmosphere, to an extreme; however, if it were all compressed into one thin layer, it would be the thickness of one penny. From a narrow viewpoint, as just explained, one penny of thickness of ozone molecules separates humanity from burning alive, and thus explains the Great Panic of the late 1980s when a Big Hole was discovered in the ozone layer as a result of too much human-generated chlorofluorocarbons ("CFCs") Halons and Freons.

According to James Anderson (Harvard professor of atmospheric chemistry), co-recipient of the 1995 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work on ozone depletion, speaking at the University of Chicago about global warming in 2018: "People have the misapprehension



The consequences -- flooding and storm surge in coastal area, and in the flood plains of swollen rivers -- are already here.

that we can recover from this state just by reducing carbon emissions, Anderson said in an appearance at the University of Chicago. Recovery is all but impossible, he argued, without a World War II-style transformation of industry—an acceleration of the effort to halt carbon pollution and remove it from the atmosphere, and a new effort to reflect sunlight away from the earth's poles... This has do be done, Anderson added, within the next five years." (Source: Jeff McMahon, We Have Five Years To Save Ourselves From Climate Change, Harvard Scientist Says, Forbes, Jan. 15, 2018).

Based upon that gauntlet as laid down by professor Anderson, only 4 years remains to get something done to "save us." But, sadly, there is no "WW-II style transformation of industry" under consideration, not even a preliminary fact-finding mission.

But, there is a very active ongoing Children's Crusade prodding adults to do something... for a change, but as the children are quick to point out, they do not expect much help from the adults in the room based upon years of "doing nothing."

Still, children skip classes to publicly protest the misbehavior of adults and occasionally, they give speeches, for example: At Katowice, Poland, COP-24 (Conference of the Parties) in December 2018, Greta Thunberg, a 15-year old from Sweden at the time, addressed the UN secretary general António Guterres. Here's her speech:

"For 25 years countless people have stood in front of the UN climate conferences, asking our nation's leaders to stop the emissions. But, clearly, this has not worked since the emissions just continue to rise. So I will not ask them anything.

Instead, I will ask the media to start treating the crisis as a crisis. I will ask the people around the world to realize that our political leaders have failed us.

Because we are facing an existential threat and there is no time to continue down this road of madness... So we have not come here to beg the world leaders to care for our future. They have ignored us in the past and they will ignore us again. We have come here to let them know that change is coming whether they like it or not."

*Robert Hunziker lives in Los Angeles and can be reached at [rlhunziker@gmail.com](mailto:rlhunziker@gmail.com).*

## 100X100 Campaign to Increase Publication Frequency of *Turning the Tide*

Over its 30+ 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 guarantee four 8-page issues a year. Now, to restore bi-monthly publication, we have launched a fund-raising campaign we've dubbed "100X100."

We are looking for one hundred people who will donate \$100 a year, or \$10/mo, to make it possible for *TTT* to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing nearly 2000 copies of each issue into the prisons. You can donate online at <http://gofundme.com/eugzgg>. Help it go viral! **Prisoners, if you can find donors or subscribers outside prison to subsidize your sub, that would help a lot.**

If you can't manage \$100 all at once, you could donate \$10 a month. But any donation you make can help. Postage costs for a single issue of *TTT* are \$1000 and climbing. If you can't donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to your Facebook friends, Twitter or Instagram followers, and email contacts. Everything helps.

LA supporters could set up house meetings, where the editor will pitch to your friends for support. 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" -- 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.**

# Not-so-light Summer Reading

## Dying of Whiteness:

How the Politics of Racial Resentment is Killing America's Heartland

by Dr. Jonathan M. Metzl (Basic Books, NY, \$32, ISBN: 978-1-5416-4498-4 or 4496-0 [e-book])

*Reviewed by Michael Novick, ARA-LA/PART*

Metzl is a physician, professor of sociology and psychiatry, and director of the Vanderbilt University Center for Medicine, Health & Society in Tennessee. He was raised in Kansas City MO, and lived in Kansas at one point. He examines the impact on the health, longevity, and life prospects of white people in Tennessee, Missouri and Kansas as consequences of the increasingly right wing politics in those states, and the dominance of Tea Party and Trumpian Republicans around three issues -- opposition to the Affordable Care Action (AKA Obamacare) in TN, rejection of any gun safety regulation in favor of open-carry and "Stand Your Ground" legislation backed by the NRA in MO, and massive income tax cuts favoring the wealthiest, with resulting cuts in state funding for schools and infrastructure in KS.

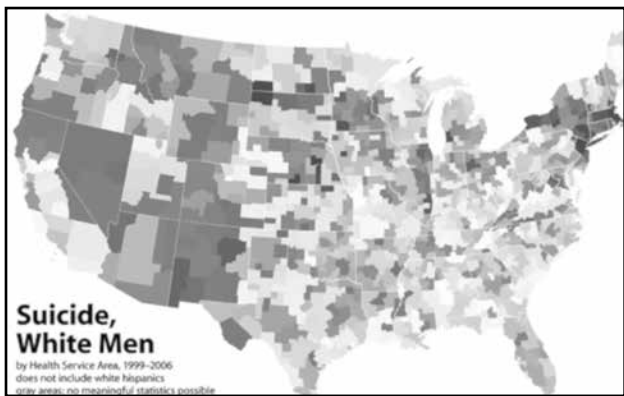
The weakest, though probably essential, parts of the book lie in the statistical analysis and projections of thousands of lost years of life suffered by white populations in the three states, and other forms of suffering. The book seeks to understand the political and cultural factors that lead white voters and communities in those states, across



**Historically, gun ownership has been gendered and racialized, and linked to "home is a castle."**

class lines and distinctions, to embrace political positions that so clearly do them damage. It is full of quotes and anecdotes of such white voters stubbornly clinging to such positions in the face of incontrovertible of the harm done to them, perhaps best exemplified by a Tennessee man suffering from a treatable ailment whose remedy he cannot afford, who says he would rather die than accept "Obamacare" (although if he lived 40 miles away in Kentucky he would have been eligible and covered for the treatment).

Metzl doesn't shrink for examining "whiteness," and particularly norms and belief systems of white masculinity, as political, socio-economic and cultural "risk factors" that



**White men are killing themselves with firearms in "red" states at disproportionate rates.**

decrease life span, increase morbidity (illness) and mortality (death), and particularly for suicide-by-firearm. He discusses the long historical reality of promoting white male gun-ownership and use, and criminalizing gun ownership by Black people. He is also clear about the 21st Century manipulation of such cultural memes by the NRA and the weapons industry. Charts and analysis also lay out clearly the increased tax burden (through sales taxes and other measures) on low-income white people and diminished educational opportunities that resulted from the radical income tax cuts in Kansas that created huge deficits for the state and debilitating cuts to schools while benefitting mainly the wealthiest residents of the state.

Metzl's book, however, doesn't raise the question of capitalism or settler colonialism, or deal fully with the legacy of slavery in Missouri or Tennessee. Also, the book is addressed, fairly explicitly, to educated white people outside the region, trying to get them to understand the cultural and social factors that militate against "liberal" reforms, as opposed to directing itself through education and agitation at seeking to get sectors of "white" society in the region to break with whiteness and empire, and struggle for revolutionary alternatives. Despite those failings, the book is an important read. The history of legislation to specifically deny Black people access to long guns or hand guns, as well as the argumentation about the suicidal consequences (literal and figurative) of the investment in whiteness, are especially valuable.

## Murder Incorporated

Volume 2 "empire\genocide\manifest destiny"

by Mumia Abu-Jamal and Stephen Vittoria, foreword by S. Brian Willson, Afterword by David Swanson; Prison Radio, POB 411074 San Francisco CA, 2019, \$20 ISBN: 978-0-9989600-6-7

*Reviewed by Michael Novick, ARA-LA/PART*

This second volume of a distinctly non-academic 3-book history of US imperialism by political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal and film-maker Stephen Vittoria makes it clear that "endless war" is not just a phenomenon of the 21st Century and the Bush-Obama-Trump trifecta, but is bred-to-bone, baked into the nature of criminal enterprise known as the USA. Having laid the groundwork for their recognition that the US ruling class is a kind of Mafia, whose blood-soaked accumulation of wealth is based on conscienceless murder, land theft, genocide and slavery, the authors proceed to document the propaganda machine and mind-control that have prettied it up, starting with Woodrow Wilson's "war to end all wars" to "make the world safe for democracy."

In the process, Abu-Jamal and Vittoria strip away the myth-making around such icons as Wilson (actually a die-in-the-wool white supremacist and segregationist), Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman. They counterpose these to the incisive critiques of Rosa Luxemburg ["Militarism is closely linked up with colonial politics, tariff politics... and therefore the present Nations ...to call a halt on competitive armaments, would have to...give up colonial predatory campaigns [and] do the exact contrary of everything which ...the nature of a capitalist class state demands." In excruciating detail about the cost of empire in blood and human misery, they drive home their point: "What should be painfully evident



**US military expansionism has been insatiable.**

forces--no matter how corrupt or sadistic--ready to brandish the sword against the people's best interests and do their paymaster's bidding--good."

This analysis, backed up by "case studies" in Chile, Nicaragua, Iran, Indonesia, East Timor and elsewhere, including in the cost of "cannon fodder" in the US military, is brought home with the story of the bombing of MOVE in Philadelphia. Taken together, they make the case for urgent opposition to current US interventions and threats of war in Nicaragua, Venezuela, Iran and elsewhere, and the need for a fundamental change in the nature of the political, economic and social system in the US itself.

Written in a breezy, vivid, colloquial style, the book is well-worth reading for those familiar with some of the history, and an eye-opening expose for a younger generation to whom Vietnam,



let alone World War I and II, is ancient history. You might wish for a little more detailed treatment of some of the crime families who run "Murder Incorporated," such as the Bush dynasty, but that's a minor detail in the compelling narrative. Book Three, "Perfecting Tyranny," about mass surveillance, the security state and the role of the Supreme Court, is eagerly awaited.

## An African American & Latinx History of the US

by Paul Ortiz (ReVisioning American History, Beacon Press, Boston, 2018, \$16, ISBN 9780-807-00593-4)

*Reviewed by Michael Novick, ARA-LA/PART*

The first half of this book, detailing the impact of the Haitian Revolution, the first Mexican Revolution for independence (1810-17), and the US expansion of slavery into territories where it had already been abolished through its annexation of Texas and war on Mexico (1836, 1846-48) are worth the cost of the book in themselves. Which is a good thing, because the second half, especially in the 20th and 21st Century, do not measure up to the standard of emancipatory revolutionary internationalism the author sets in the earlier chapters.



**The US white power structure feared Mexican independence and abolitionism. Free and enslaved African Americans welcomed it.**

Chapter 1 outlines the centrality of the maintenance and potential expansion of slavery to the goals of the US war for independence and the Constitution, details the efforts of African Americans to adapt the rhetoric of liberty and independence to their own struggles for freedom and dignity, and their solidarity with the revolution and success of the enslaved Haitians, making clear the internationalist scope of the Black abolitionist freedom struggle.

Chapter 2 recounts the effort of Jose Maria Morelos, a leader of the Mexican struggle for independence from Spain, to win the support of the US under James Madison, and the response from then Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, asserting that there was nothing in common between the US and Mexican revolutionary wars for independence: "The struggle in South America is savage and frocious almost beyond example... The resemblance between this Revolution and ours is barely superficial. In all their leading characters the two events present a contrast, instead of a parallel. Ours was a war of freemen, for political independence; this is a war of slaves against their masters. It has all the horrors and atrocities of a Servile War." The US wanted to preserve the Spanish Empire as a counter-weight against the British, particularly as British abolitionism and power politics threatened slavery and the slave trade.

In the same period, Quincy Adams frankly justified Gen. Andrew Jackson's brutal incursions into Spanish Florida against Africans and Native people supported by British agents.

"The justification [for the attack on Fort Negro and the killing and torture of its fugitive slaves and Indian outlaws] is found in [the measures'] salutary efficacy for terror and for example. It is thus only that the barbarities of the Indians can be successfully ...countered." This honest admission that terror is something practiced by the US to meet its objectives of domination gives the lie to today's endless "War on Terror."

The US refusal to support Mexican independence, essentially on racial grounds, and its perception of Mexican sovereignty and abolitionism as a threat, led inevitably to the US designs on Mexico for its own further expansion. Ortiz clearly reports the opposition to the impending war with Mexico by African Americans and other US abolitionists. Chapter 3 follows the thread through the way the US colonization of half of Mexico led to the US Civil War, and Chapter 4 details African American solidarity with the Cuban liberation struggle, and then opposition to the US imperial war with Spain and invasion and occupation of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines.

Chapter 5 is where the book begins to lose steam. Although there is rich material about the internationalism and global impact of the Garvey movement, there is no acknowledgment, there or later, about the role of communists, anarchists, or socialists, especially Black and/or of color, on the movements of the 20th (or 21st) Century. The narrative passes to uncritical adulation of Cesar Chavez, the labor movement and Martin Luther King Jr, with little or nothing again about the role of communist or anti-imperialist organizations and movements in the 1960s or subsequently. Despite these weaknesses, the first half of the book and its documentation of the active solidarity among Africans and indigenous people throughout the Americas, and the conscious opposition to that unity by the developing US empire, make this book a very worthwhile read.

# Separating Real From Fake Socialism

by Thomas C Mountain — May 24, 2019

How do you define socialism, especially when it comes to having a “socialist”, Bernie Sanders, one of the most popular candidates to be the next president of the USA? Or the next Prime Minister of Spain a “Socialist”?

To start with, real socialism means that the government, representing all the people, owns all the land. Land cannot be bought or sold, only used.

When you build a house, plant an orchard or a field of wheat, you are creating value with your labor and the roof over your head or the fruit of the fields belongs to you. But not the land itself.

How can you own something you did not create? You built your house so you can sell it but not the land it sits on. Without a house on it the land itself cannot be sold.

Ownership of land is something foreign to socialism and any society that allows for this is not socialist, period. All the land belongs to all the people not to any individual.

There are many other questions in defining what is and isn't real socialism including just how much of the means of production the government must own before the people lose control of their society. How equal the society, “democratic” in the true meaning of the word, is. How great is the difference between the social strata, the well off and not so well off? Another sign post of socialism, a question that gives a sort of false impression of Bernie Sanders, is free universal education and health care.

National service? Yes, a must, all young adults in a socialist country must begin their life's journey after finishing their schooling, which was paid for by the people, by serving the people. By doing their national service be it they are teachers, doctors, mechanics or soldiers.

Contributing directly towards society's betterment, for the common good, is everyone's first duty in a socialist country. To put it simply you don't put yourself and your family first, you put your community, collective unity and protection first.

I have lived in Eritrea, a socialist country (though we aren't officially one), for 13 years. I see every day the good and not so good of a society struggling to build a new socialist way of life.

As the President says, we want a rich Eritrea without rich Eritreans. That is the culmination of socialism and what some would say begins the transformation into the next phase of human development, what Karl Marx calls “communism”, where the “common” people work together for the “common” good. Socialism could be said to be “from each according to their ability, to each according to their work” evolving into “from each according to their ability, to each according to their need” in the last great leap of human progress.

## End of the Road for the Socialist Revolutionary Workers' Party? And What Future for NUMSA?

May 23, 2019 Stephen Grootes DAILY MAVERICK

Despite the massive membership of its parent union, NUMSA, the Socialist Revolutionary Workers' Party polled an embarrassingly low number of votes in the recent South African election. Is this because of rifts between Zwelinzima Vavi and Irvin Jim, or is it a true picture of the unions' popularity among their members and the SA public?

As the dust slowly starts to clear on the results of last week's elections, it is abundantly clear that for now, at least, the dream of a political party that is focused only on the needs of workers appears to be dead. The Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party (SRWP), the party that was created by NUMSA, received only 24,439 votes nationally, an embarrassingly small number, despite having resources and a massive union organization behind it.

There are credible questions here about why this happened, and about whether any kind of political resurrection can take place in the future. The much more fundamental issue is whether workers, in the sense of people who take orders and do the work, will be able to achieve significant political power in the near future.

The scale of the humiliation the SRWP suffered at the hands of the voters cannot be overstated. The union behind it, the metalworkers union NUMSA, has a total membership of over 339,000 people. That is the figure stated on its website. To get to that number, you have to go through the landing page of the site, which proudly features the SRWP's banner. How did the 339,000 members translate into 24,439 voters, a loss of 93%?

Or, to put it another way, only around seven percent of NUMSA's claimed members voted for their own union as a political party.

This also despite the professed support of Abahlali base Mjondolo, the shack dwellers' movement based in KwaZulu-Natal. This group appears to have strong structures and many members. And yet, again, this public support did not translate into votes.

This is not what was envisaged when NUMSA decided in December 2013 to stop supporting the ANC. That special congress is what led to NUMSA, inevitably, being forced out of COSATU. And that, in turn, led to then-COSATU General Secretary, Zwelinzima Vavi, being forced out of his position and leaving COSATU to form the SA Federation of Trade Unions with NUMSA.

The writing had been on the wall for some time.



Women were and are central to revolution in Eritrea, one of the only African nations with no US troops.

Eritreans fighting for their independence during the 30 war experienced this, maybe for the first time in history. Everyone shared equally, you did your job, be it manning a trench or logistics in the rear for what you needed to survive, your daily bread (boj-boj). Your survival needs, food, water, shelter, medical and education, were supplied by the peoples movement for national liberation and money played no role in this earliest form of modern “communism”. The planet will need just such effort and sacrifice in the future.

Real socialism is going to be required for the survival of the human species as the looming climate catastrophe will bring world wide apocalyptic droughts and famines unseen in human history. Food security will be the first priority and only socialism and uniting the efforts of all the people will allow this to be a reality.

Here in Eritrea the socialist leadership of the country has focused on food security as essential to national security and instituted a massive water conservation and irrigation policy since independence. Without year round rivers anywhere in our country damming water run off for year round use is essential, without this we will not survive as a society for scientists predict droughts, 5 or even 10 year droughts, plaguing the planet in years to come. These droughts are caused by man made climate change with the western industrialized country's mainly to blame for the damage already done to the environment.

When a country's main industry is agriculture, as here in Eritrea, and the rains fail repeatedly, the whole society is crippled. Yet those climate criminals in the West causing

this disaster blame us and the leaders we support here in Eritrea for our poverty fueled by the crisis they caused, drought.

Recently with the outbreak of peace here in the Horn of Africa our neighbors have sent their leaders here to Eritrea to see our massive dams and irrigation projects and just what can and must be done to prepare for the coming drought driven climatic apocalypse and the mass world wide starvation that will accompany it.

When it comes to water conservation and food security the strides made by Eritrea show the way for the rest of Africa. Socialism in action not empty rhetoric, preparing to meet the people's needs in the coming years of drought and famine.

A genuine socialist society is at the vanguard in this regard in East Africa with Eritrea increasingly being recognized as a role model in many fields be it the outbreak of peace to food security and self sufficiency. The goal is to transform the Horn of Hunger and War into the Horn of Peace and Plenty. Or at least enough to get by. You know, “Enough is Plenty” as the saying goes?

A rich Eritrea without rich Eritreans, I may not see it in my lifetime but it's where we are headed no matter the climate disasters and western instigated roadblocks thrown in our way. It's called real socialism and has been paid for in the blood and hard work of the Eritrean people, not the fake kind of socialism Bernie Sanders or the Spanish PM to be claim as their own.

*Thomas C. Mountain is an historian and educator living and reporting from Eritrea since 2006. See FB/thomasmountain, @thomasmountain on Twitter, or email thomasmountain@gmail.com*

NUMSA had decided, quite oddly, to release its own policy documents, a sort of blueprint of what it would do if it were ever to run the country. A strike at BMW at the time led this writer to opine that perhaps NUMSA, and its leader Irvin Jim, were using that industrial action to make a political point.

Back then, it seemed the real point of the turmoil and bitter dissension was that NUMSA was first going to stop supporting the ANC, then leave COSATU, then form its own trade union federation, and finally its own political party. Why else go through an expulsion that was inevitable over this particular issue?

There was much excitement at this. While Julius Malema had already been expelled from the ANC, the EFF was not quite yet at its fighting weight. This meant that a political party run by NUMSA could have been one of the bigger political formations coming out of the Congress movement to challenge the ANC. In other words, it had a chance to really shake up our politics. At the time, of course, the president was Jacob Zuma, and there were great fears about what could happen were he ever to get a two-thirds majority in Parliament.

Unions have members, organization & resources. Throughout the recent democratic era, unions have played big roles. The original Labour Party in the UK was formed by unions, unions formed Solidarity which won freedom for Poland, the Zimbabwean Congress of Trade Unions formed the Movement for Democratic Change, and the miners' strike of 1987, led by one Cyril Ramaphosa, had a massive political impact here as well.

All of this means that from a standing start, NUMSA should have been in prime position to start a political party and to win significant support. And yet that has not happened.

It does seem clear that one of the problems is that there wasn't complete agreement around all the people within this movement about the formation of the SRWP in the first place. Vavi, in his role as SAFTU general secretary, went on the record to say that he was not campaigning for it, and neither was his federation, saying this was because the party was not discussed with them.

Certainly, when NUMSA first left COSATU, it formed SAFTU, and there appeared to be some sort of momentum behind it. But that momentum then stalled.

The reasons for this are hard to discern. Daily Maverick asked NUMSA a series of questions around why they thought the political party had not received more support. By Sunday morning no response had been received.

When political movements try to form, one of the problems that can immediately emerge is the fighting among the people involved for the political power of their own. It is this feature that strangled Cope to death. Many other new movements have emerged and then simply disappeared. To circumvent this, a group of people are required who are united, and who are all able to move in the same direction. Julius Malema has been able to achieve this with the EFF, although even his strong personality has led to some people leaving, and the odd internal dispute.

From what is known it seems the roots of the problems within the SRWP lie, perhaps, with the problems around the relationship between Vavi and Jim. Both are strong personalities, and now may well be moving in different directions.

It may seem strange to make this point now, but seven or eight years ago Vavi had almost no equal in terms of political profile in South Africa. While he was not technically speaking a politician, he was the kind of person who was literally stopped in the street wherever he went. His media profile was stratospheric. At the ANC's 2012 Mangaung Conference, he once spent literally hours standing on a street corner being photographed with one ANC member after the other.

It seemed at the time that the NUMSA/SAFTU grouping would be able to put this to good use. Instead, it seems his profile has ebbed. In the same period, so has the profile of Jim. He too was seen as one of the key political movers of the time. And yet, despite the posters bearing his visage, in the real world he has seemed to almost disappear.

Some might claim that this is proof that it is indeed “cold outside the ANC”. But, there must be internal reasons for this. How can a movement with more than 300,000 members, get fewer than 25,000 votes? Certainly, there was a lack of campaigning: perhaps people just didn't really know it existed.

The SRWP is what could be called an “ideology party”; it wants a particular kind of state. It may be that here, as in some other countries, ideology no longer wins votes, that politics is becoming less about ideas and more about personalities. That doesn't mean policy doesn't matter, but it could mean that the hardline, and somewhat outdated ideology that the SRWP (and NUMSA) espouse is a turnoff. The consequences of this very low level of support for this movement could actually be felt by NUMSA in the short term, as it is weakened facing a test of strength in its interaction with Pres. Ramaphosa's government and its plans to cut thousands of jobs.

# EYES: THE PASSING OF A HEALER

[col. Writ. 6/7/19 ©2019 by Mumia Abu-Jamal]

The name, Dr. Patricia Bath, is perhaps unfamiliar to you, as it was to me just a few days ago; but a colleague shared obituaries from several newspapers, and I could only be moved by the extraordinary life and achievements of Dr. Bath.

She earned her medical degree from Howard University Medical School, and began her internship in the neighborhood of her birth: Harlem.

For most of her professional career, she worked as an ophthalmologist (or eye doctor) and, as a scientist she developed techniques and equipment designed to treat and relieve glaucoma and cataracts in her patients.

In 1988, Dr. Bath invented the Laserphaco Probe, a device that removed cataracts and which she also, incidentally, patented. Her work returned vision to people who had been blind for decades.

Why write about the life of Dr. Patricia Bath?

Because she was a medical pioneer - a Black doctor who brought relief, light and sign to people across Black America, and beyond.

But there is another reason. Several months ago, I was diagnosed by an ophthalmologist with having glaucoma - and cataracts. I was stunned by this news!

A month ago, my eyesight deteriorated so badly that I couldn't read a book - or a newspaper. Thus, the news about the life and passing of Dr. Patricia Bath naturally caught my attention.

Dr. Bath reached 76 years



of life before returning to her ancestors.

Today, I await treatment.

## TAKE ACTION FOR MUMIA!

In recent weeks the focus of Mobilization4Mumia.com supporters nationwide has been to raise awareness of the medical crisis Mumia currently faces as the PA Department of Corrections (DOC) has delayed his access to cataract surgery. The petition below calls not only for this medically necessary procedure to be performed without delay, but also for the release of Mumia, a factually innocent man.

Please take time to make calls to the numbers below. Please sign the petition (on-line) if you haven't and share it with your social media networks. Please download the petition and collect signatures that we will later deliver to Krasner and others. Take action in your community as part of a nationwide demonstration of support for Mumia.

Sign the petition: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/emergency-appeal-for-mumias-health> You can also print the petition for circulation.

Call: Dr Courtney P Rodgers - 570-773- 7851 and

SCI Mahanoy Superintendent Theresa A. Delbalso - (570) 773-2158

Tell them to approve Mumia's cataract surgery immediately

And also Call: PA Gov. Tom Wolf - 717-787-2500

PA DOC Secretary John Wetzel - 717.728.2573

Philadelphia DA Larry Krasner - 215-686-8000

Tell them to release Mumia NOW because he can receive better healthcare outside of prison and also because he is an innocent man!

And last, please consider making a donation or a regular monthly contribution to further the work to free Mumia. Go to <https://mobilization4mumia.com/donate-1>

## Message from Mumia to Prison Radio:

Now, cataracts: Do you know what cataracts are? Imagine you're wearing a very dark pair of sunglasses; Now smear the lenses with thick swabs of Vaseline. That's cataracts--from the inside. But it doesn't end, for there is no pair of glasses to remove. It's... your eyes. They don't work anymore like they used to.

There's a man here, an "Old Head" who is functionally blind (although he has some vision in one eye). One of his eyes is as blue as a robin's egg, but it's dead. He has no vision in it. Imagine that; a Black man with a blue eye! That's what prison eye care can get you!

alla best, majJ"

## Opposing "Nationalist Solutions" in TN

The "Nationalist Solutions Symposium" on June 29 in TN featured ex-Grand Wizard of the Ku-Klux-Klan David Duke, William (AKA Daniel) Johnson, the leader of the 3rd-position American Freedom Party, League Of The South Chairman Michael Hill and "Alt-Right" founder Richard Spencer as well as many others. Many of these speakers played a key role in organizing and carrying out the violence in Charlottesville at the Unite the Right rally in 2017. It followed on the heels of a May 18th event by suit-and-tie racists American Renaissance in the same Montgomery Bell State Park.

In May, the police held a line at a great distance from the inn where the Nazis were holding their conference. The options facing antifascists were to go through an invasive body search before being put into a "protest pen," or to stand outside the police line, made up of park rangers, state troopers and Department of Corrections prison guards. (It raises a whole additional set of issues when you have people trained a prison guards policing the First Amendment expression.)

This eventually resulted in mounted police charging and attacking protesters. Four protesters were arrested. One protester received seven broken ribs and a broken nose, as well as having his heart defibrillator dislocated. Another was treated at the ER for a concussion. A third was charged with aggravated felony assault. She is accused of squeezing a water bottle that caused a few drops of water to land near/on an officer.

In June, police had a barricade set up further down the road. Police asked park goers if they were conference attendees or in the park for another reason. If the person said they were not a conference attendee, they were directed down the fork that led to the beach area/boat launch area. Being directed to go this way, protesters were in an area behind where the white supremacists were meeting, separated by a wooden bridge guarded by two park rangers. We played loud music over the speaker, chanted, etc. and they could hear us well, we were told by an antifascist who attended the conference.

A Knoxville attorney attended the conference. He was able to gather a slew of information, videos, photos, and all the propaganda. This will prove invaluable in identifying who attended and exposing the ideologies of the groups inside. He said the white supremacists could hear us outside, and begged their folks not to engage with us.

There were about 70 people at the conference. There were about 50 antifascist protesters. There was one arrest at the June conference. A disabled woman protester asked park rangers to direct her to the restroom. They refused to give her the location. Because of her medical condition she had to urinate immediately. Some friends held up banners around her that blocked all view of her. However, park rangers charged her with indecent exposure. Tennessee law says that a person does not commit the

crime of indecent exposure if there are "intentional and reasonable attempts to conceal the person from public view while performing an excretory function, ...in an unincorporated area of the state."



## On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide & ARA-LA.

You can find archives of *Turning the Tide* at [www.antiracist.org](http://www.antiracist.org) that go back more than 15 years. In addition, there are several Facebook pages, such as [facebook.com/tideturning](https://facebook.com/tideturning), and [facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity](https://facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity). You can follow @ara\_losangeles on Twitter, and the De-Colonize LA! blog at [ara-la.tumblr.com](http://ara-la.tumblr.com).

## URGENT APPEAL

We need your financial support to continue sending the paper free to 1700 prisoners around CA and the US.

## PLEASE SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

**\$20 a year payable only to Anti-Racist Action  
at P.O. Box 1055 in Culver City 90232**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Postage alone for this issue comes to nearly \$1000. We would like to increase the size and frequency of *Turning the Tide*, but we can only do it with your support. 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. And check out our 100X100 campaign elsewhere in this issue. 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](mailto:antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com)



# 50 years in prison: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!!

## Free Chip Fitzgerald - Grandfather, Father, Elder, former Black Panther

Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald has been in prison since he was locked up 50 years ago. A former member of the Black Panther Party, Chip is now 70 years old, and suffering the consequences of a serious stroke. He depends on a wheelchair for his mobility. He has appeared before the parole board 17 times, but they refuse to release him. NOW is the time for Chip to come home!

In September 1969, Chip and two other Panthers were stopped by a highway patrolman. During the traffic stop, a shooting broke out, leaving Chip and a police officer both wounded. Chip was arrested a month later and charged with attempted murder of the police and an unrelated murder of a security guard. Though the evidence against him was weak and Chip denied any involvement, he was convicted and sentenced to death.

In 1972, the California Supreme Court outlawed the death penalty. Chip and others on Death Row had their sentences commuted to Life imprisonment with the possibility of parole. All of them became eligible for parole after serving 7 more years. But Chip was rejected for parole, as he has been ever since.

Parole for Lifers basically stopped under Governors Deukmajian, Wilson, and Davis (1983-2003), resulting in increasing numbers of people in prison and 23 new prisons. People in prison filed lawsuits in federal courts: people were dying as a result of the overcrowding. To rapidly reduce the number of people in prison, the court mandated new parole hearings:



- for anyone 60 years or older who had served 25 years or more;
- for anyone convicted before they were 23 years old;
- for anyone with disabilities

Chip qualified for a new parole hearing by meeting all three criteria.

But the California Board of Parole Hearings has used other methods to keep Chip locked up. Although the courts ordered that prison rule infractions should not be used in parole considerations, Chip has been denied parole because he had a cellphone.

Throughout his 50 years in prison, Chip has been denied his right to due process – a new parole hearing as

ordered by Federal courts. He is now 70, and addressing the challenges of a stroke victim. His recent rules violation of cellphone possession were non-violent and posed no threat to anyone. He has never been found likely to commit any crimes if released to the community – a community of his children, grandchildren, friends and colleagues who are ready to support him and welcome him home.

The California Board of Parole Hearings is holding Chip hostage. We call on Governor Newsom to release Chip immediately.

### What YOU can do to support this campaign to FREE CHIP:

1) Sign and circulate the petition to FREE Chip. Download it at <https://www.change.org/p/california-free-chip-fitzgerald>. Print out the petition and get signatures at your workplace, community meeting, or next social gathering.

2) Write an email to Governor Newsom's office (sample message at: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iwbP\\_eQEg2J1T2h-tLKE-Dn2ZfpuLx9MuNv2z605DMc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iwbP_eQEg2J1T2h-tLKE-Dn2ZfpuLx9MuNv2z605DMc/edit?usp=sharing))

3) Write to Chip:  
Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald #B27527,  
CSP-LAC  
P.O. Box 4490  
B-4-150  
Lancaster, CA 93539

## Free Anthony J. Bottom (Jalil Muntaqim)

by Messiah Rhodes

It all started the night of May 21, 1971. Two police officers, Waverly Jones and Joseph Piagentini, were fired upon while walking to their patrol car at a housing project near the Macombs Dam Bridge in Harlem. Jones died instantly from a gunshot to his head. Piagentini, who was shot 13 times, died en route to the hospital. Today nothing marks the location of the shooting, but in the 1970s, it was among a string of cop killings that garnered the attention of J. Edgar Hoover and even President Richard Nixon, who told his FBI director "not to pull any punches" in going after the Black militants believed responsible.

Working with the NYPD, the FBI launched operation NEWKILL, casting a nationwide dragnet to track down members of the Black Panther Party's paramilitary offshoot, the Black Liberation Army (BLA), which had issued statements claiming responsibility for the deaths of Jones, Piagentini and other officers in their war against the United States government.

After a shootout with police in San Francisco, two young men — Anthony Bottom and Albert "Nuh" Washington — were arrested on August 28, 1971 for the killings of Jones and Piagentini. Nearly two years later a third accomplice, Herman Bell, was arrested in New Orleans. They became known as the "New York Three" and in 1975 were convicted of first-degree murder, weapons possession and conspiracy.

In 2000, Washington died in prison from cancer. On April 27 of this year, Herman Bell was granted parole. Anthony Bottom, who later changed his name to Jalil Muntaqim, is the only member of the New York Three remaining behind bars. Just 19 years old when he was apprehended, Muntaqim was a member of the BLA, but he'd already been politically active years before that. An activist with the NAACP's San Francisco chapter, he joined the Panthers after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968.

"I had a job at California human resources as a social worker and I worked with them getting people employment," Muntaqim said, recalling the era in which he was radicalized during a recent interview conducted at the Sullivan Correctional Facility, a maximum security prison in upstate New York. "At the same time, I was engaged with the Black Panther Party and their operations."

Since his arrest, Muntaqim has spent the past 47 years behind bars. The 66-year-old has done time at Attica and Sing Sing in New York and at San Quentin in California, among other prisons. His case represents a turbulent era in the United States, when the government actively suppressed nonviolent movements as well as their militant counterparts, including the Weather Underground, Puerto Rico Liberation Front, the American Indian Movement and the BLA.

"We got close to a real revolution in this country," Muntaqim said. "I am an example of what was going on during the 1960s and '70s leading out of the Civil Rights movement."

Since entering prison Muntaqim has been a tireless advocate for radicals such as himself who are serving decades-long prison sentences, helping to run an organization he formed called the Jericho Movement, which raises awareness of their plight. In terms of his own case, he has repeatedly been denied parole since he became eligible in 2002, although his last parole assessment classified him as a low-risk inmate.

Until recently, the New York State Board of Parole could deny parole solely based on the severity of a prisoner's past offense, even if he or she was deemed to have been rehabilitated and a low risk to society if released. Under new regulations, the parole board is now required to give much greater weight to an



applicant's record while incarcerated and the likelihood they can be reintegrated into society.

In Bell's case, the parole board cited his exemplary prison record and his apology for his role in the killings of the two police officers. "There was nothing political about the act," Bell told the parole board in March. "As much as I thought [so] at the time, it was murder and horribly wrong."

Muntaqim has also garnered praise for his conduct behind bars and will go before the parole board the week of June 11. Stung by Bell's release, the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association and its political allies are clamoring for Muntaqim to remain behind bars and point to his continued identification as a political prisoner as a sign of his lack of penance for his crime.

An organizer, writer, poet and educator, Muntaqim has twice received commendations for quelling tensions and preventing prison riots. He has written three books while incarcerated and, in 1994, graduated from SUNY New Paltz with a B.S. in Psychology and a B.A. in Sociology. These days, he focuses on educating the inmates around him, teaching classes in poetry, sociology and history.

He has also dedicated himself to his Muslim faith. "Prison is not easy," Muntaqim said, explaining how Islam helped him mature over the years and find peace. However, he has refused to entirely renounce his revolutionary views, which, he believes, is the reason he continues to be locked up. His political convictions have also gotten him into hot water in prison. He spent four months in solitary confinement at Attica beginning in December 2016 because authorities were not happy about the content of one of his classes.

"They came to my cell and took me to the SHU [Secure Housing Unit]," Muntaqim said. "I was teaching a black history class for about two months straight. I started from 1861 and I was bringing it up to 1960s. So during the 1960s naturally I have to talk about the Black Panther Party. That was one of the biggest things going on in this country at the time. I was bringing a comparison to the Black Panther Party and street organizations, particularly the Bloods. The [prison] administration was not happy about the fact I was making that kind of comparison. So they took my narrative and turned it into something completely different. They put me in the box, saying I was trying to organize the gangs or something."

Meanwhile, as aging radicals such as Oscar López Rivera, Herman Wallace, Herman Bell and others are finally released

from state and federal prisons, Muntaqim hopes the New York State parole board will set him on the path to freedom so he can continue the work he began in prison on the outside.

He already has plans for what he will do when he's free. Going to federal prison at the age of 19, Muntaqim was separated from his soon-to-be newborn daughter. At the age of 66, he has yet to spend time with her, his granddaughter or his great-granddaughter outside of prison. He wants to be involved in community gardens and to take part in forming a community center where young people can learn computer skills, especially coding. He also has a few history lessons he would like to impart to the next generation. "Some of us on the inside need to come out," Muntaqim said. "We have a voice that needs to be shared."

On May 21, a group of prominent academics, lawyers, and activists published an open letter calling for the release of political prisoner Jalil Muntaqim (a/k/a Anthony Bottom). Signers include Prof. Angela Davis, Prof. Cornel West, actor and activist Danny Glover, musician and filmmaker Boots Riley, author Michelle Alexander, and co-founder of Black Lives Matter Patrisse Cullors. They wrote:

"We the undersigned offer our strongest support for the release of Jalil Muntaqim (aka Anthony Bottom) on parole. We also ask that New York Governor Andrew Cuomo commute his sentence to time served. Jalil was arrested in 1971 when he was only 19 years-old and a member of the Black Panther Party. Forty-eight years later he is the only Black Panther prisoner who remains incarcerated in New York State prisons. It is time for this father, grandfather and great grandfather to come home.

"Over the decades, Jalil has consistently demonstrated his commitment to sustaining family relationships, pursuing educational advancement and providing service to the community, inside and outside of prison. He has served as a teacher, mentor and role model for hundreds of other incarcerated people. He stands as an example of the potential to reflect, change and grow despite the many challenges of the prison environment.

"Jalil is scheduled for his twelfth parole hearing this coming September. One of his co-defendants, Albert 'Nuh' Washington, died in prison in 2000. The other, Herman Bell, was released in April 2018 after serving almost forty-five years in prison. There is no justification for Jalil to be held in prison any longer. He should be released at his next parole hearing when he will be sixty-eight years old.

"We believe in the principles of restorative justice. While we understand the serious nature of the crimes for which Jalil has been convicted, a life sentence should not be a death sentence. Forty-eight years is long enough. After all this time, Jalil Muntaqim belongs with his family and his community."

After his last parole hearing and denial, pursuant to NYS Constitution Article IV, Section 4, Jalil filed an Application to Commute the Sentence to Time Served with NYS Governor Andrew M. Cuomo. Governor Cuomo has the authority to grant the Application and order Jalil's immediate release from NYS DOCCS custody.

Since the Application's submission it has been revealed that the NYS Board of Parole had a "secret deal" with the NYC Police Benevolent Association (PBA), permitting them to submit opposition letters directly to the Board of Parole from their website. These opposition letters negatively influenced the decision-making process, ensuring Jalil would not receive a fair and impartial parole hearing. During Jalil's 2014 parole hearing, he was told that "current and former members of law enforcement" were parole commissioners, many of whom decided to deny his release.

# Kings Bay Plowshares 7 Nuclear War Resisters Face Sentence

by World Beyond War

On April 4, 2018, the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Liz McAlister, 78, Stephen Kelly S.J., 70, Martha Hennessy, 62, Clare Grady, 58, Patrick O'Neill, 62, Mark Colville, 55, and Carmen Trotta, 55, entered the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base. Carrying hammers and bottles of their own blood, the seven sought to enact and embody the prophet Isaiah's command to: "Beat swords into plowshares." In so doing, they were upholding the US Constitution through its requirement to respect treaties, international law through the UN Charter and Nuremberg principles, and higher moral law regarding the

sacredness of all creation. They hoped to draw attention to and begin to dismantle what Dr. King called, "the triple evils" of racism, militarism, and extreme materialism.

In an indictment filed this week in the Southern District of Georgia, Brunswick division, the seven were charged with four counts: Conspiracy, Destruction of Property on a Naval Station, Depredation of Government Property, and Trespass. They will appear before a magistrate in Brunswick on May 10th. Although currently being held at the Camden County jail in Woodbine, Georgia, they expect to be acquitted of all charges. Attorney William P. Quigley, Professor of Law at Loyola University, New Orleans, LA, noted, "These peace activists acted in accordance with the 1996 declaration of the International Court of Justice that any threat or use of nuclear weapons is illegal." Martha Hennessy, the granddaughter of

Dorothy Day, responded from Camden County jail with the observation that, "the real conspiracy lies with those who create unparalleled omniscient weapons that violate national and international law."

Kings Bay Naval base opened in 1979 as the Navy's Atlantic Ocean Trident port. It is the largest nuclear submarine base in the world. The Kings Bay Plowshares hope to draw attention not only to the threat of nuclear annihilation posed by the weapons aboard the submarines whose homeport is Kings Bay, but to emphasize how the weapons kill every day. Clare Grady wrote from Camden County jail, "We say, 'the ultimate logic of Trident is omniscience', and yet, the explosive power of this weapon is only part of what we want to make visible. We see that nuclear weapons kill every day by their mere existence. We see the billions of dollars it takes to build and maintain the Trident system as stolen resources, which are desperately needed for human needs." In response to news of the indictment, Mark Colville, of New Haven, Connecticut, wrote from the Camden County Jail, "Once again the federal criminal justice system has plainly identified itself as another arm of the Pentagon by turning a blind eye to the criminal and murderous course from which it has repeatedly refused to desist for the past 70 years."

We write to announce, to last from Hiroshima Day August 6th through Nagasaki Day August 9th in solidarity with the KINGS BAY PLOWSHARES 7 A FAST FOR PEACE in defense of life and against nuclear weapons.

On August 7, in Brunswick, GA, the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 will appear in court for oral argument. They and their support team welcome you to Brunswick, GA where a number of people will undertake a fast from August 6 through 9. Others will join in support through public vigils and remembrance of those who died in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We'll be grateful for your help with outreach and hope you'll be able, in some capacity, to participate in the August 6-9 vigils and fast.

For those able to join us in Brunswick, please send [kathy@vcnv.org](mailto:kathy@vcnv.org) (Kathy Kelly, Voices for Creative Nonviolence) your feedback (as soon as possible). For those who would like to help defray costs (for printing, water, juices, and possible car rentals plus fuel) checks made to "Plowshares" with "Solidarity Fast" written in the memo can be sent to Plowshares, P. O. Box 3087, Washington, DC 20010 (or link to <https://www.gofundme.com/xaajdf-kings-bay-plowshares-support-fund> and note Solidarity Fast in your payment.)

For more information contact:

Jessica Stewart: 207.266.0919

Paul Magno: 202.321.6650

Or visit their website at [kingsbayplowshares7.org](http://kingsbayplowshares7.org)

or their Facebook page: Kings Bay Plowshares.



## CLOSE THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS NOW!

We are calling on all people of conscience to shut down the concentration camps on the US-Mexico border through any nonviolent means necessary.

From Abolitionism to Standing Rock, Americans have come together time and again to defy horrific injustice. Now, as the government tries to normalize concentration camps, it is time like never before to target those responsible.

### THIS IS YOUR CALL TO ACTION

Inspired by the civil rights movement, ACT-UP, and early labor struggles, we must employ every nonviolent tactic at our disposal to oppose this institutionalized criminality.

We are calling on everyone to organize: your community, your school, your house of worship, your workplace, your friends and family.

We can blockade the concentration camps with occupations and die-ins. We can set up our own "freedom camps" on their doorstep. We can support workers who walk out and strike.

We can make life impossible for the tech companies profiting from this misery, for the big banks that fund it, and for the politicians that make it possible. And we can directly aid the immigrants-rights groups who are already working to end the illegal mass detention of our brothers and sisters.

We ask everyone to recognize and respect the front-line immigrant communities and organizers who have been fighting

for many years, and to take leadership from those most impacted by this brutal system.

Will you join us?

### WE DEMAND

Closure of all of Trump's concentration camps NOW  
Abolition of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)  
Defunding the Customs & Border Protection (CBP)  
Upholding the legal right to seek asylum  
Decriminalization of the border

Historians call the "border detention centers" concentration camps. Rabbis call them concentration camps. Actor George Takei says, "I know what concentration camps are. I was inside two of them, in America. And yes, we are operating such camps again."

Doctors say children are being detained in "torture facilities." The camps are rife with disease, filth, and lack of proper food. Seven children have died in detention in recent months. Meanwhile, the Trump administration is telling judges that the safe and sanitary conditions that it is required by law to provide are possible without soap, toothbrushes, or even sleep.

When even the New York Times calls the camps "a mass atrocity," and says people should target the "mid-level functionaries who make the system run," you know it's time to act.

What would you do if it were your daughter, grandson, niece

or nephew who was sick, denied medicine, deprived of sleep, and so traumatized that they've become suicidal? You'd move heaven and earth to free them. These are all our children; their lives are sacred. We must shut down these camps today and forever.

The right to seek asylum is completely legal under U.S. and international law. The only criminals here are in the Trump administration—and when the government engages in such breathtaking criminality, people must take action, fast.

Unless people step up to stop them, concentration camps always get worse. Today it's refugees; tomorrow it could be Muslims, journalists, political opponents, and anyone who doesn't think or look quite right.

We must emphatically reject a future built on walls and drones and surveillance and worse. Instead, we must embody the best of our values and fight for a society in which everyone is treated with dignity and respect, and given a fighting chance.

For a first step, join in the July 12 protests organized by Lights for Liberty. Then check out [closethecampus.us](http://closethecampus.us) and [nomorecamps.org](http://nomorecamps.org) to find out about all the upcoming events, the latest actions, how you can organize your own protest, and frontline groups you can support.

Let's raise the floodwaters of resistance and rebellion until we wash away all the hate. Together, we can do this.

Join the movement! [www.nomorecamps.org](http://www.nomorecamps.org)

## Developments in Germany's Politics

by Tikkun magazine Berlin correspondent Victor Grossman [Excerpts]

Elections to the European Union's Parliament in May gave the "Christian Union" 28.9% of the German vote. Its coalition partner in German government, the Social Democrats (SPD), suffered greater losses, with only 15.8%. Recent national polls give them only 13%. Both of the former "big two" parties are looking for new leadership. Still ruling jointly, they no longer represent a majority. Though regular elections are two years away, the German political system could lead to earlier balloting if Merkel loses a no-confidence vote in the Bundestag.

The European Council, the cabinet of the EU, needs a new chair, nominated by the heads of all 28 member states, then approved by a majority of the 751 members of the European Parliament. After the heads of state argued for days, Merkel came up with Ursula von der Leyen, her Minister of Defense, although she has never even been a deputy in the EU parliament.

Was this Merkel's parting favor to a long-time colleague, perhaps to rescue her from nasty tales of corruption? A Bundestag committee is currently investigating. The SPD partners weren't consulted and may vote against her. Will this cause a new fissure? von der Leyden declared, "When tension or crises require mov[ing] troops great distances in Europe, then this must be planned exactly and proceed with great speed and efficiency."

Within NATO, German officers now command a "Very High Readiness Joint Task Force" which can be sent anywhere within three days. During her visit to troops stationed in Lithuania, she announced that by 2021, Germany will invest some 110 million euros in Lithuania's military infrastructure and reiterated

Germany's commitment to deploy troops near Russia. "We are the only continental country to maintain a forward presence in the Baltic area." She boasted, we are "the second largest supplier of troops in Afghanistan".

In March the European Commission, which she hopes to head, reported plans to strengthen and widen highways, bridges and rail lines so troops and tanks can move quickly eastward from German bases and ports. Déjà vu 1935!

One week before her nomination some 5000 people camped out in southwest Germany to protest just such developments. In singing, dancing and protests, they demanded that the huge US Army base at Ramstein, the biggest outside US boundaries, be shut down. From there, generals direct troop movements in Africa and the Near East, and from there that orders, sent from Nevada (in a relay made necessary because of the earth's curve), deploy drones to murder anyone the Pentagon decides is an enemy. Wedding parties are destroyed, farmers blown up, countless boundaries violated, most recently and dangerously those of Iran. General Mark August boasts, "When you look across the tarmac and see those giant planes, then you can grasp that this is a place where we get things moving, in the direction of Africa, the Near East or Eastern Europe."

Other demos are directed against the US Air Force base at Bueckel where an estimated 20 B61-3/4 atomic missiles are stored, each with 13-20x the power of the bomb at Hiroshima. Germany's Tornado planes are there, ready to carry them eastward at any moment.

Sadly, the only German party to achieve big gains in the EU vote, the "Greens", has not distinguished itself as a party of peace. At its start, while stressing environmental questions, it leaned to the left. But its ecology became tainted with business interests during coalitions with right-wing Christian Democrats. A marriage of Greens and "Christians"

in the state of Hesse led to abandoning a fight against a damaging expansion of the huge Frankfurt airport and against cutting down the venerable Hambacher Forest to dig lignite coal. In foreign policy the Greens often lead the pack in a threatening belligerency toward Russia. Yet, seen by many as an alternative to the two older established parties, the Greens soared in the EU vote from 9.8% to 20.5% this May!

The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) made smaller gains in the EU vote than many had feared. But the menace remains, especially in coming elections in the East German states of Brandenburg and Saxony. It was also brutally dramatized by the murder of one decent Christian Democratic politician by a fascist who hated his courageous defense of immigrants and foreigners.

Die Linke, "the Left," the only Bundestag party to oppose expansion, militarism, belligerency slumped from 7.4% in 2014 to a dangerously low 5.5% in May. Inner-party quarrels, a split about strategy and a failure to fight "in the streets and factories" have prevented it from winning the increasing numbers of dissatisfied union and low-paid SPD voters. Its participation in coalition governments in East German states, seen by some as "the Establishment", has lost it votes. There are hopes it may be moving to cure such ills by fighting hard for rent controls, even confiscation of real estate carnivores.

One interesting new local development holds some hope. In an election in Bremen, Germany's smallest, poorest state, the Social Democrats were outnumbered by the Christian Democrats for the first time since 1949. But they saved their government, by daring to join not just with the Greens but, for the first time in a West German state, also with the Left, which had made modest gains in the Bremen vote. Will this triple coalition work? Can local left-wing factions in the SPD and Greens and a militant leadership in the Left unite and, defying large debts, achieve improvements in education, housing and environment? The experiment will be watched, closely and critically!

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# TURNING THE TIDE

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## INSIDE

- ### UPCOMING EVENTS:
- ★ July 26 - Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution
  - ★ Aug 6 -9 Days of Fasting for Plowshares 7 - Anniv. of Hiroshima/Nagasaki
  - ★ Aug 15 - Balloting begins in Pacifica Local Station Board Elections: Vote for Grassroots Community Radio Coalition candidates in L.A. (see [www.gcrc-social.org](http://www.gcrc-social.org)) and Justice & Unity Candidates in NYC.
  - ★ Balloting continues for 45 days for listener-sponsors
  - ★ Sept 2 - Labor Day March and Rally in Wilmington CA
  - ★ Sept 15 Deadline for material for Oct-Dec issue of TTT

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- MUMIA ABU JAMAL

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