

CAN PACIFICA RADIO SURVIVE?

as an independent, people-powered platform for working & poor peoples' voices against war, racism, and fascism?

The survival of the Pacifica Foundation and its five constituent radio stations, WBAI in NY, WPFW in DC, KPFT in Houston TX, KPFA in Berkeley, and KPFK here in Los Angeles as an independent, people-powered platform for working & poor peoples' voices against war, racism, and fascism is in greater question than ever before in its nearly 3/4 of a century existence.

Financial distress, diminished audiences and donors, and internal conflict over whether or not the stations should tailor its programming to focus on more mainstream, corporate political and cultural coverage and views are now the focus of contested elections for the foundation's governance, and litigation between factions and elements of that governance and the Foundation as a whole.

To cover accumulated debt, the national board has determined to sell the Studio City property that houses both KPFK and the Pacifica Radio Archives, as well as the Foundation's national office. KPFK itself is in a critical on-air membership and fund drive in August as it faces the prospect of having to move out if that sale goes through, with no clear destination yet set, while it also has to deal with aging infrastructure at its transmitters on Mount Wilson and in Santa Barbara.

Despite having the strongest signal west of the Mississippi and being audible from San Diego to Santa Barbara on various frequencies, KPFK has only a small audience. Attempts to rebuild that listener base with fresh programming from Stop LAPD Spying Coalition, La Raza Unida, Health Care 4 US, Extinction Rebellion, CodePINK, the Labor-Community Strategy Center, and other sources, as well as a new locally produced evening news hour, KPFK's Rebel Alliance News, and a new labor oriented program, Working Voices, have not yet borne much fruit.

At issue and at stake is whether Pacifica will be turned into the radio equivalent of MSNBC, trimming its sails to the dictates and needs of the Democratic Party and its candidates, and hewing to the US State Department line on world affairs, war and peace. Will the Foundation, the stations and the hundreds of affiliates offer countervailing views to the drumbeat of war and resurgent white nationalism and patriarchy?



Pacifica is contested terrain, always a target of the state and the right, that has created the space on the broadcast spectrum and in the political discourse that called forth NPR and PBS as denatured and contained alternatives to Pacifica's more forthright anti-establishment political and cultural discourse.

State agents and political operatives of the corporate Democratic Party have always been present within the mix at Pacifica and repeatedly sought to turn the network into an adjunct or transmission line for views that reinforce rather than threaten corporate liberalism.

Self-determined voices of Black, Indigenous, Asian, Chicana/Latina, poor and working people have always been embattled there as they are in the larger society, even as they form the large and growing majority of the potential audience and of the communities the stations are licensed to serve in every city that Pacifica broadcasts in.

In the last few years, there have been two unsuccessful attempts to replace the democratic Bylaws of Pacifica with a more centralized system that would facilitate turning the network into essentially an adjunct of the

corporate Democratic Party, and there is an attempt underway by the same forces to achieve the same ends by winning control of the local boards at most of the five stations in the delegate elections now underway.

Candidates who opposed this corporatization and whitewash and gentrification of the airwaves at KPFT in Houston have been disqualified wholesale from even running. At the other stations, including at KPFK, the contest is underway, with the well-financed "New Day" slate pushing for centralization and 'professionalization' of Pacifica as the supposed panacea for its financial issues. Conveniently, this is also the road to making the stations and the 200+ affiliates who pick up content from Pacifica reliable allies in the effort to assure Joe Biden's re-election next year.

If you are skeptical of the dominant media narrative on Ukraine, Russia, China and NATO, if you support the struggle of the Palestinian people, if you oppose Cop City and counter-insurgency policing, if you appreciate hearing solutions and strategies and cultural expressions from Black, Indigenous, Raza, AAPI, and other working class communities, and want to keep them on the air, check out the candidates endorsed by Pacifica Fightback, a national coalition of listeners and staff at the five Pacifica stations and other Pacifica affiliates at <https://pacificafightback.org>. [These are not a "slate".]

At KPFK, these include in alphabetical order Doug Barnett, Rachel Bruhnke, Edward Fakes, Kelly Flores, Aryana Gladney, Ralph Hawkins, Ian Johnston, Soni Lloyd, Jack Neff, Rizo Saverio, Elizabeth von Gunten, and Charlie Wilken.

ARA-LA/PART's key endorsements from an anti-racist and anti-fascist perspective are **Aryana Gladney** (a former LSB member) of the African National Women's Organization, **Kelly Flores** (she's with the Association of Raza Educators and UTLA), **Rachel Bruhnke** of CodePINK and the Cold War Truth Commission, and **Jack Neff**, an environmentalist and advocate of Indigenous sovereignty.

The "single transferable vote" choice-voting system allows you to vote for more than one candidate in preferential order, and creates a mechanism for proportional representation on the Local Station Board. A number 1 vote for Aryana Gladney or Kelly Flores would help assure that revolutionary-minded women of color have a leading voice in the station and national governance of KPFK and Pacifica.

REST IN POWER DR. MUTULU SHAKUR: STRAIGHT AHEAD!

<https://mutulushakur.com/obituary/>

Dr. Mutulu Shakur, a highly esteemed acupuncturist, healer, revolutionary, and leader in the Black liberation movement, peacefully passed away on Friday, July 7, 2023 at 72 years old. He courageously battled multiple myeloma, a blood cancer that damages the bones and kidneys, since 2019. In December 2022, he was released on parole from federal prison, affording him the opportunity to spend his remaining days surrounded by loved ones. Having endured nearly 37 years of incarceration, his profound legacy will serve as a timeless inspiration for future generations.

Born Jeral Wayne Williams on August 8, 1950, in Baltimore, Maryland, Dr. Mutulu Shakur was raised in Jamaica, Queens, under the loving care of his blind mother. It was within the struggle of helping his mother navigate an unjust social service system that his political consciousness awakened. At the tender age of 16, he joined the New Afrikan Independence Movement, and in the late 1960s, he actively participated in the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM), a Black Nationalist group advocating for Black self-determination and socialist change across the nation.

Driven by his unwavering commitment to the cause, Dr. Mutulu Shakur was a conscious citizen of the Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika. He was a leader of the Black Liberation Army (BLA), and worked closely with the Black Panther Party. He was a founding member of the New Afrikan People's Organization (NAPO) and Malcolm X Grassroots Movement (MXGM), acting as a pillar of strength and leadership.

While his revolutionary activism influenced countless lives, Dr. Mutulu Shakur also made groundbreaking contributions as an acupuncturist, affectionately known as "Doc." After receiving training in Canada and China, he obtained his license in California in 1979. Dr. Mutulu Shakur practiced holistic medicine with unwavering dedication, working tirelessly to empower his community. His journey started at Lincoln Detox, an addiction treatment program. The program was founded in 1970 in the South Bronx, by a coalition that included revolutionary



Dr. Mutulu Shakur kept organizing in prison.

healthcare workers, the Black Panther Party, the Young Lords and drug-addicted individuals seeking treatment. Dr. Mutulu Shakur served as executive director and pioneered the use of acupuncture in treating withdrawal symptoms. His innovative five-point protocol, which remains widely used in addiction treatment today, brought relief and healing to countless individuals. In the late 1970s, he co-founded and co-directed the Black Acupuncture Advisory Association of North America (B.A.A.N.A) and the Harlem Institute of Acupuncture, both established during a time when acupuncture faced legal challenges in New York. Dr. Mutulu Shakur's influential work in acupuncture continues to resonate in clinics and treatment centers across the globe.

In 1988, Dr. Mutulu Shakur faced a profound legal ordeal. He was convicted for leading a group of revolutionaries involved in a series of armed robberies in New York and Connecticut in 1981. The charges were brought against him under the conspiracy to violate the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act and included his role in the liberation of fellow activist Assata Shakur from a New Jersey prison in 1979.

While incarcerated, Dr. Shakur was active in various prison programs and was a mentor to many within the system. He prepared a lot of young men on how to handle

life in prison and for life after release.

Dr. Shakur was deeply influential in the social and political messaging of his sons' creative output. Ever present as a mentor, even while imprisoned, he was instrumental in developing the Thug Code, which created a framework for the brothers' vision to create a social movement with the group THUG LIFE as the voice.

Dr. Mutulu Shakur is survived by his six children — Maurice "Mopreme" Shakur [Talia], Talib Shakur [Nichole], Ayize Jama-Everett, Sekyiwa "Set" Kai Shakur [Branden], Nzingha Shakur-Ali, and Chinua Mutulu Shakur. Additionally, he is fondly remembered by his six grandchildren — Nzingha Afeni Shakur, Malik Mutulu Shakur, Cheyenne Kai Harding, Tyrone Campbell, Cameron Rahmell Jackson and Mia Voight, his loving sisters Sharon Howell and Janice Ruth Williams, his brothers Sekou Odinga and Bilal Sunni-Ali, nieces and nephew — Nicole Howell, Sharon N. Williams, Tyree N. Williams and Chandra D. Williams-Phillips, and his godchildren — Aiyisha T. Obafemi, Chaka Zulu, Zayd Akinshegun Sefu Akinyela, Sulay Majid, Malika Majid, Ayesha Jabbar, Nora Hasna Majid, and Mohammedeen Majid. His former wife, Makini Shakur, and his son-in-law, Gregory Jackson (who he named Bahanee Lajah) are also cherished members of his family. Dr. Shakur was preceded in death by his mother, Dolores Porter, his revolutionary and spiritual father, Salahdeen (Aba) Shakur, his son, Tupac Amaru Shakur, godson, Yafeu Fula, his brothers Lumumba Shakur, Zayd Shakur and Wakil Shakur, his sister Fulani N. Sunni-Ali and his former wife, Afeni Shakur, a remarkable political activist, philanthropist, and Black Panther.

As we honor the life and legacy of Dr. Mutulu Shakur, let us remember him as a healer, an unyielding revolutionary, and an advocate for social change. His contributions as an acupuncturist and his unwavering dedication to the Black liberation movement will forever inspire generations to come. May his spirit of resilience and commitment guide us as we strive for a more equitable and just world.

Ruchell Magee is Free! Free Them All!

Claude Marks

Ruchell Magee is 84 years old and has spent most of his life behind bars. Throughout his sixty-seven years of unjust captivity, Ruchell has been one of the first and most consistent prisoners linking mass incarceration and the U.S. prison system to slavery. Ruchell Magee took the name Cinque from the enslaved African Sengbe Pieh who led an 1839 rebellion to commandeer the slave ship *La Amistad*, arguing that Africans have the right to resist “unlawful” slavery. Ruchell maintained that Black people in the US have the right to resist this new form of slavery which is part of the colonial control of Black people in this country:

“Slavery 400 years ago, slavery today. It’s the same but with a new name.”

“My fight is to expose the entire system, judicial and prison system, a system of slavery... This will cause benefit not just to myself but to all those who at this time are being criminally oppressed or enslaved by this system.”

“You have to deal on your own tactics. You have a right to take up arms to oppose any usurped government, particularly the type of corruption that we have today.” – Ruchell Magee

Ruchell’s political stance and writings point out the need for a prison abolitionist movement to seriously address the historical legacy of slavery, and slave rebellions in order to truly be in solidarity with the millions of people incarcerated in the US.

Early Life

Ruchell Magee, was born in Louisiana in 1939. In 1956, he was sentenced to 12 years of forced labor for the alleged attempted rape of a white woman in August 1955. But all the circumstances indicate that this case was replete with racist and false identification – at first the alleged victim failed to identify Magee, but at a second opportunity, all of a sudden, she did. It is clear that this was a case of “southern justice” – the jury was all-white, the trial lasted just one day, and it took the jurors just a fraction of that time to send Magee away for twelve years. Also Emmett Till was murdered in August 1955 for a similar unfounded accusation.

He spent almost seven years under a brutal labor regime in the infamous Louisiana State Penitentiary known as “Angola” and was released on parole in 1962. Ruchell moved to Los Angeles. He got involved in a quarrel about ten dollars worth of marijuana ending in a kidnapping charge for which there is very little evidence and which he denies to this very day.

He was sentenced to a prison term of seven years to life for aggravated kidnapping which carried a penalty of up to five years. This trial lasted two days. He had spent only a few months in freedom after his release from Angola.

Ruchell’s conviction appeal was denied in 1965. He spent the time after his conviction in San Quentin prison where he started “jailhouse lawyering” and he met prison activist George Jackson who also had a California-type sentence of one year to life. The parole boards regularly denied their releases. Ruchell became a major participant in the movement for prisoner rights and continued the fight for his release.

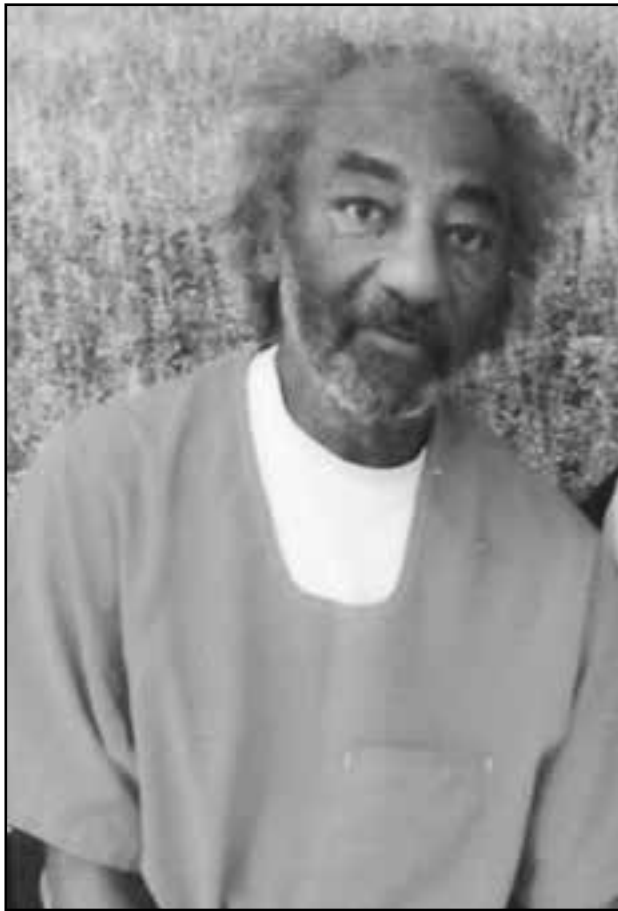
The Marin County Courthouse Rebellion

By August 7, 1970, Ruchell had spent almost 15 years in prison for charges that he continues to deny. That day, he was called along with another prisoner, William Christmas, as a witness in a prison murder case. Suddenly, George Jackson’s younger brother Jonathan entered the courtroom with a number of weapons which he distributed among the defendants in the case, James McClain, as well as Magee and Christmas. They took the judge, an assistant attorney, and three jurors hostage, demanding liberty for George Jackson and the guarantee of safe conduct for themselves.

However, when the group went to a waiting van that Jonathan Jackson had brought with him, and tried to leave the Marin County courthouse premises, the Marin County Police and San Quentin guards opened fire. When the shooting stopped, Judge Harold Haley, Jonathan Jackson, William Christmas, and James McClain lay dead. Ruchell was unconscious and seriously wounded as was the prosecutor.

As the sole survivor of the group, Ruchell was charged with simple kidnapping, aggravated kidnapping, and murder, along with Angela Davis, who was alleged to have provided Jonathan Jackson with the guns. The trials against Angela and Ruchell were then separated; Davis was acquitted of all charges in 1972.

According to an affidavit by the jury foreperson, Ruchell’s own 1973 trial ended with a hung jury, and



then voted unanimously to acquit him of the aggravated kidnapping charge, voted 11 to 1 to acquit him of the murder charge, and found him guilty of simple kidnapping.

During the trial, an autopsy of the judge who had been killed clearly showed that Ruchell had not been responsible for his death. Even so, parole commissions deciding on Ruchell’s release and the media have regularly mentioned his responsibility for the murder.

Even though there isn’t the slightest piece of evidence that Ruchell Magee knew anything about the planned liberation of prisoners in the court in San Rafael at any time before August 7th, on January 23, 1975, Magee was sentenced to life in prison. After his conviction he was moved from San Quentin prison to the high security Folsom prison. This is where his first of 16 parole hearings took place. Ruchell also spent nearly ten years of his sentence in the infamous Special Housing Unit at Pelican Bay. Given the way the facts of August 7, 1970 were presented and the way Ruchell himself was characterized, the results were hardly surprising, – it was taken for granted that Ruchell had in fact killed Judge Haley, even though the autopsy presented at the 1973 trial showed that he had not, and even though the prosecution itself had dropped the murder charge after that first trial.

These parole hearings also demonstrated the political character of Ruchell’s continued incarceration. The parole process decided that the prisoner cannot be released for explicitly political reasons, namely because he rejects the legality of his conviction, and because he refuses to pronounce himself guilty.

In fact, Ruchell has always insisted that the reason for his participation in the abortive 1970 rebellion was the very fact that he had been “unjustly put behind bars” and therefore had the right to liberate himself. This position is the basis for arguing that slavery for many has not ended – especially for Black prisoners facing a parole process that insists on the admission of guilt and responsibility as the basis for release consideration.

Ruchell Magee has over the decades been one of the most consistent and successful jailhouse lawyers and an advocate for other prisoners.

Ruchell Secures his Freedom

On July 15, 2021, Ruchell was denied parole for the 16th time. In 2023, Ruchell Magee signed a petition for compassionate release after incessant work to challenge the legitimacy of his imprisonment.

It’s important to note that the specific way Ruchell is being released is through the new California compassionate release law, Assembly Bill 960 which many prison justice organizations worked to put through. AB 960 (which went into effect on Jan 1, 2023) added Penal Code §1172.2 and changed the basis for compassionate release from six months left to live to someone who has a serious and advanced illness with an end-of-life trajectory or who is found to be permanently medically incapacitated.

Also it created a presumption that the person is entitled to release unless there is an unreasonable risk that the incarcerated person will commit a new violent felony. The risk has to be based on the person’s actual capacity and not just speculation. The new law takes the

decision for release recommendations out of the hands of the punitive prison system hierarchy and gives them to the prisons’ medical executives, who at least for now are more humane than the guards who’ve worked their way to the top of the system. Finally, the new law lets prisoners or their family ask the top doctor at each prison to review their case and set things in motion.

These small reforms proved to be the pathway for freedom for Ruchell, along with a lot of organizing work and a great lawyer. “But even with the new law, it was a pitched battle. We had to sue the prison bureaucracy to force them to ask the courts to release Ruchell, and then we had to fight the Attorney General, who lied about Ruchell and clearly wanted him to die in prison,” said Mark Kleiman, Ruchell’s lawyer. Significantly, there are many other people in California’s prisons who should be also able to win release through this new law, according to Kleiman.

The Coalition to Free Ruchell Magee and other supporters are raising money to ease Ruchell’s transition from prison. Please consider making a donation: <https://fundrazr.com/82E6S2>

Thanks to Michael Schiffmann and Linn Washington Jr. – Addressing the Issue of Political Prisoners in the United States: Mumia Abu-Jamal and Ruchell Magee https://www.academia.edu/98803371/Addressing_the_Issue_of_Political_Prisoners_in_the_United_States

A more in-depth and recent article on Ruchell, *Slave Rebel or Citizen?*, is very worthwhile by Joy James and Kalonji Jama Changa. Read it here: <https://inquest.org/slave-rebel-or-citizen/>

And more background – the 50th Anniversary of the Marin Courthouse Rebellion <https://freedomarchives.org/projects/the-50th-anniversary-of-the-august-7th-marin-county-courthouse-rebellion/>

Also the 50th Anniversary of the Assassination of George Jackson – 99 Books: <https://99books.freedomarchives.org/>

Freedom Archives, 1615 Hopkins Street,
Berkeley, CA 94707

Questions and comments may be sent to
info@freedomarchives.org

RUCHELL MAGEE IN HIS OWN WORDS

This is an excerpt from a 1973 letter by Ruchell Magee to *Brother: A Forum for Men Against Sexism* that TTT editor Michael Novick worked on at the time.

I am the victim of judicial corruption. Millions of people fail to realize the truth. The judicial vampire (monster) values the blood of the people. People who refuse to see the monster, through ignorance feed it. However the awareness of this (reality) by the progressive forces gives us the strength to penetrate the heart of the monster with the almighty revolutionary sword.

My search is for support by progressive groups throughout the country, in an effort to bring about radical legal changes. Many so-called revolutionary people seem to tremble or to fear presenting the truth of my plight or the truth of other cases. I get the impression people are faking: In fact I let them know when they come with their never-ending excuses. I don’t believe the communities should be left to the mercies of the monster into whose hands they have fallen. Keep the struggle rolling until we have pierced the monster’s heart: this is the only way to keep it from growing new destructive heads, in order that mankind will at last be content, secure and at peace.

Hidden beneath the surface of the false news media image is the truth of my illegal imprisonment. I’ve applied for a writ of habeas corpus, challenging my original Los Angeles Superior Court conviction as being unconstitutional. The California Attorney General is before the Federal courts with known false records and fraudulent returns (legal papers – Ed.). What they’re trying to continue to do is cover up the facts: of my court appointed attorney having entered a false insanity plea, that was then used to trick a jury into convicting me, in July 1965.

In May 1965, an insanity plea was entered in my behalf without foundation, over my specific objection. In July 1965 I was gagged and chained in the presence of the trial jury for objecting to the jurors hearing such a plea. The District Attorney said he would prove that I, Magee, had robbed and kidnapped Ben Brown for \$10.00; then before the jury, found himself claiming that I had committed a crime but wasn’t guilty by reason of insanity. While the jury was deliberating, the court ordered the plea withdrawn, yet the jury returned with a guilty verdict based on that plea. More at: <https://antiracist.org/prisoner-writings/>

Israeli court orders removal of Palestinian Negev village to build Jewish neighborhood

By Lubna Masarwa in Jerusalem and Nadda Osman - July 28, 2023

An Israeli court has given Palestinian families in the Negev (or Naqab) until March of next year to destroy their homes and leave their village to make way for the expansion of a nearby Israeli city.

The decision will affect 500 native people from the Ras Jrabah village, who have been left in a state of shock after the decision by the Be'er Sheva Magistrate's Court on Monday.

Residents of the village, which predates the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, say the news fell on them like a "thunderbolt" and was difficult to process.

"Young people have been calling me since the morning, telling me about their concerns for the future," Musa al-Hawashleh, a resident of Ras Jrabah, told Middle East Eye.

"We don't know where we will go. We have been here before the state of Israel and now we will be expelled from our homeland," he added.

The Ras Jrabah case began in 2019 when the Israel Land Authority (ILA) filed 10 eviction lawsuits against 127 residents of the village and their families.

The government body argued that the presence of Ras Jrabah - which is unrecognised as an official village by the state - hindered the expansion of the nearby city of Dimona.

Dimona was built on land owned by the nomadic indigenous Palestinian tribe of al-Hawashleh, which also owns land in the adjacent Ras Jrabah village.

The government wants to remove Ras Jrabah - an area of around 34 hectares - and replace it with a new neighbourhood for Jewish citizens called Rotem, which will include thousands of housing units.

'We have been here before the state of Israel and now we will be expelled from our homeland' - Musa al-Hawashleh, Ras Jrabah resident

Earlier this week, a magistrate's court ruled in favour of the government and ordered the Palestinian families to leave the village they've lived in for generations, giving them a deadline of 1 March 2024. The families were also ordered to pay a sum of 117,000 shekels (\$31,700) to cover legal expenses.

Adalah, the Haifa-based legal centre for Arab minority rights, which is representing the Palestinian residents, said they will appeal against the decision. It argued that the court "disregarded" the residents' arguments in its judgment.

"Since the Nakba, the state of Israel has employed a range of tools and policies to forcibly displace the Bedouin residents in the Naqab," Adalah said in a statement.

"Their livelihood has been confined to restricted areas and segregated townships, and they have been subjected to harsh living conditions, with no regard for their basic needs and way of life.

"The forced displacement of Ras Jrabah's residents to expand the Jewish city of Dimona, which was built on the residents' lands, serves as clear evidence that Israel is committing the crime of apartheid against its Palestinian citizens."

'Judaisation' of the Negev

Hawashleh says that while residents will protest against the decision and fight it all the way in the courts, they have little hope in the current ultranationalist government, which has placed the acceleration of the "Judaisation" of the Naqab at the heart of its guiding policy.

"The new government is worse than the one before, they want to demolish the village to build a new neighbourhood... The government has not offered alternative suggestions," Hawashleh told MEE.

"It has been difficult to process and explain to the younger people. I worry about them, their future and where they will go," he added.

According to Adalah, Ras Jrabah residents suggested that their village be integrated into the newly planned part of Dimona, a request that was turned down.

Palestinian women gesture as they stand by an Israeli policeman during a protest against government expulsions in the village of Sawe al-Atrash in the Negev on 12 January 2022 (Reuters)

Palestinian women stand beside an Israeli policeman during a protest against government expulsions in the village of Sawe al-Atrash in the Negev, on 12 January 2022 (Reuters)

The village is one of around 30 unrecognised Palestinian villages in the Negev region of Israel's southern territory.

Almost 100,000 Palestinians who hold Israeli citizenship live in these unrecognised villages, which are denied any infrastructure or support from the government.

There are no means of transportation, no roads, no schools, and Israeli authorities don't collaborate with their local leadership.

Palestinian citizens of Israel are the descendants of the native population which was violently displaced by Zionist militias during the creation of Israel in 1948.

Today there are almost two million Palestinian citizens of Israel, who are estimated to make up 20 percent of the country's population.

Historical documents reveal Israel's plan to empty Negev of Palestinians

At least 300,000 live in the Negev region, and say that Israeli authorities have attempted to force them out and destroy their nomadic way of life for decades, through various tactics.

These include confiscation of lands from native Palestinians and turning landowners into tenants. Additionally, the Israeli government has been accused of preventing the expansion of Palestinian villages and encircling them with new Jewish settlements.

"The goal of the Israeli government is to take control over Arab land in the Naqab and to expel entire communities from their land," Youssef al-Atawneh, a Palestinian member of the Israeli parliament with the Hadash-Ta'al coalition, told MEE. "This has been ongoing since 1948 and some families have been displaced twice," he added.

The MP said he is collaborating with a Negev-based committee to organise a large-scale protest over the expulsions and projects taking place. "People are very angry over the racism that is taking place," he said.

"But despite the difficult circumstances, fines and displacements, people are remaining steadfast and strong," he added, predicting that the recent court decision will likely inflame tensions in the Negev.



Although some Palestinians have turned out to "pro-democracy" protests in Israel, Israeli Jewish protesters defending judicial oversight have consciously refused to address Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights by the Israeli courts, legislature and military.

The Limits of Israeli "Democratic Resistance"

The above article makes clear that Israeli courts, far from being the last resort of democracy, are in fact another aspect of Israeli settler colonial domination and dispossession of the Palestinian people.--*Editor*

After 29 weeks of massive protests across Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right, ultra-religious coalition government defied opponents and passed a law limiting the powers of Israel's Supreme Court, the first step in a larger judicial overhaul plan that opponents say will undermine Israeli democracy and the rule of law. The mostly secular and liberal opponents of the law — that includes business owners, military reservists and veterans — vow to continue to fight to protect Israel's democracy.

But Israeli activists opposed to the extremist coalition's agenda to weaken the Supreme Court's ability to act as a check on government power, have largely ignored the struggle of the Palestinian people for basic human rights and self-determination. In recent months, violence between Palestinians, the Israeli military and radical settler groups has been on the rise, as the government expands illegal settlements. At the same time, Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem face an increase in home demolitions and forced evictions, leading some observers to fear that Netanyahu's government could soon annex the West Bank.

Between The Lines' Scott Harris spoke with Phyllis Bennis, director of the New Internationalism Project at the Institute for Policy Studies, who talks about the massive protests in Israel, and the disconnect between these opposition activists and the oppression of the Palestinian people.

PHYLLIS BENNIS: It's been an extraordinary thing to see this level of mobilization of Israelis fighting for how they define their democracy. And it is a real fight. It's, you know, the rights of LGBTQ people, the rights of non-Orthodox Jews, the rights of secular Jews, the protection of the environment. A whole host of things are at stake here. There's no question about that.

And we're seeing that in the numbers of people. I mean, there have been hundreds of thousands of people out in the streets. Apparently, it was some tens of thousands, 30,000 or 40,000 people who marched over the weekend from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, which is a very long march. It would mean going 25 or so miles every day for three days, something like that, over not small hills.

So this was a very big mobilization. It's like half the country that is engaged in this fight. And for many people, they see it as an existential threat to their vision of what Israel was and is supposed to be.

The problem is this level of protest is very limited to that part of the repression that will come from the change in the role of the Supreme Court, the lack of independence of the judicial system, the threat to Israel's internal Jewish democratic systems.

All of that is very real. And the reason that there are so many hundreds of thousands of people in the street, the reason that you have 300,000 instead of 300 is because they have refused very consciously. This is not an accident. There was a very clear decision made at the beginning of these protests seven, eight months ago that there would be no mention of the occupation, no mention

of Israeli apartheid, no mention of international law violations, that this would be focused solely on that part of the Israeli democratic threat, which applies and would impact Israeli Jews.

So that's where this huge contradiction in the extraordinary level of mobilization that we're seeing in the streets that's become an international phenomenon and the ability of these hundreds of thousands of Israelis to absolutely ignore, keep their mouth shut, refused to acknowledge what this shift of the lack of any kind of accountability could mean in terms of making the already horrific situation facing Palestinians living under military occupation in the West Bank, in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian citizens of Israel, the 20 percent of Israelis who are not Jewish, who will be impacted far more brutally than the Jewish Israelis who are in the streets.

And their ability to put that aside really speaks to the success of the Israeli culture of apartheid, culture of occupation, culture of colonialism that has affected the entire Jewish population essentially, so that the number of incredibly brave and creative and smart Jewish opponents of Israeli settlements, of occupation, of apartheid — incredible people, but could sit in my living room, unfortunately, that there are just so few of them.

This is what we're looking at. And it's an extraordinary and very sad reality, given what this level of mobilization could mean if it took into account the real threats, the real indications of the nonexistence of a democratic reality in Israel.

<https://btlonline.org/israeli-pro-democracy-activists-ignore-palestinian-struggle-for-basic-human-rights/>

WRITING THROUGH THE WALLS: PRISONERS CORRESPOND

Dear Sir or Madam,

Currently I am a lifer now in my 31st year of imprisonment, incarcerated here at the Correctional Training Facility-Soledad and I am in the process of filing a civil suit over "racial discrimination" over "safety violations" and "wrongful termination" from my CALPIA job. I have alleged for years now that racial bias and racial discrimination is heavily practiced in

my former work area by both supervisors and inmates assigned as "lead-man" in the CALPIA Textile Factory. I have filed complaints and grievances and all have fallen on deaf ears.

I came across your organization via "The Best 500" and I am hoping that you will be able to assist me, either directly or indirectly through other willing resources; for these people need to be held accountable. For in all my years of incarceration, I have never seen or been

subjected to the type of "RACISM" that is allowed to take place here at this prison and it needs to be put an end to now!

I thank you for your time and await your reply,

Edward Martinez Vargas, Sr. K-63463,
C.T.F.-N A-RA #328 L
P.O. Box 705
Soledad, CA 93960-0705

In The Name Of God The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful, We Seek Your Assistance.

Coffield Improvement Committee
Coffield Unit

2661 FM 2054

Tennessee Colony, TX 75884

To Whom It May Concern

July 4, 2023

Re: Help! Help! Help!

Dear Editor,

Please print the enclosed as a story about the

In The Name Of God, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

WE ARE HUMAN, TOO!

Please accept this as a call to all GOD-FEARING PEOPLE to call on the Texas Legislature to convene a Special Session to correct a potentially vital situation here on the Coffield Unit.

The following is a brief narrative of what is taking place. The Coffield Unit was initially designed to house 2,000 men, however, at last count there was 4,300. Consequently, staff is daily operating at 31% to 21% capacity. This creates an environment of absolute chaos. Prisoners are crowded into dayrooms for hours at a time (after meals and showers) without adequate access to toilet facilities. The dayrooms are equipped with only urinals. This has resulted in men defecating on themselves, or defecating in sacks or on paper or other items of discarded clothing etc., then throwing it out the window.

Another issue is sleep deprivation. Due to the constant slamming of doors, count times, showers, and other penal activities it is impossible to get a decent nights rest. Also the dining hall is a powder keg. It is often filled to max capacity (without any observable security), with men jumping line, purchasing contraband food, and conducting all types of side deals. Outside recreation is nearly non-existent. The overcrowded showers, dayrooms, and dining hall would be unbelievable to the average observer.

Whenever there are important visitors to the unit it is guaranteed the unit will placed on limited movement, suspended activity, or full lockdown in order to conceal the chaotic nature of daily operations. There is a sophisticated camera system installed in the unit that would verify the truth of all of these claims. '

Another extreme situation is the heat, which is exacerbated by the unjust section lockdowns. To explain,

unconstitutional living conditions in TDCJ, particularly, but not limited to the Coffield Unit due to Staff shortage, as well as old facilities in ill-repair. Also, as this represents our first step in attempting to get a Court Order for the release of prisoners due to the inability of TDCJ to bring the facility(S) into constitutionally sufficient living conditions; which includes the PROPER

Guard to Prisoner Ratio, we ask to please send us the following information if at all possible? ~see GRADDICK v NEWMAN [453 U.S. 928]

1. How many deaths from suicide & homicide that have

taken place on the Coffield Unit from 2020 to date; ' 2. How many prisoners have been treated for H.Pylori and/or Stomach-Infections since 2015; and 3. How many prison guards have been fired or resigned due to bringing contraband (i.e.Drugs & Cell Phones) to prisoners.

Your much needed assistance will be highly appreciated. May God Reward You For Any Assistance You Can Give In This Matter.

Sincerely,

Chairman - Norris Hicks #505593



due to the age of Coffield and the fact that it is in disrepair, prisoners have figured out how to manipulate the locking mechanisms on the cell doors. Because security staff cannot stop this from happening, they will retaliate by placing those sections on lockdown for several days and subjecting them to the extreme heat, sack-meals, and extreme cell searches.

This is an extreme security risk, which could easily lead to a massive riot, which the "shortage of staff" will not be able to maintain. This is not to mention the extreme and oppressive conditions the men in Ad Seg, or "Restricted Housing" experience on a daily basis. It is common for these prisoners to go days on end without showers or recreation. They are frequently denied drinks with their meals.

Their manner of being fed is totally against policy and food service standards. For example the SSI's (i.e. the janitor prisoners) are allowed to feed them without security staff present. This means that those prisoners whose food tray slots are not opened or rigged must receive their food trays underneath the rusted and corroded cell doors. It is common for fires to burn and smolder on the run for hours at a time without any attempt at putting them out, and still yet unsuccessful at gaining the attention of the security staff. The manipulating the locking mechanisms are also a phenomenon in Restricted Housing. There have been recent incidents of prisoners popping out of their cells stabbing prisoners, dashing other prisoners with feces & urine. There was recently a prisoner who got out of his cell and hit an officer in the head with a fan motor, causing him to be sent out in an ambulance.

As a proposed solution, we duly implore you to convene a Special Session to reduce the Coffield population by **releasing those prisoners with 20-years or more completed on their sentence** (who has received more than one parole set off). This will aid in making the unit into a Single-cell unit as it is being reported to be. The living conditions here on the Coffield unit is unconstitutional and in total violation of the 8th Amendment. The SPCA would not allow dogs to be housed as we are here on the Coffield Unit. We implore you to come and see for yourselves!

Sincerely Requested,
[petition signatures]



100X100 Campaign to Increase Publication Frequency of Turning the Tide

Over its 35-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. To restore bi-monthly publication, we launched a fund-raising campaign we've dubbed "100X100."

We are still 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 about 1700 copies of each issue into the prisons. You can donate online at https://ko-fi.com/anti_racist_action_la

Turning the Tide doesn't print itself, or mail itself. Some prisoners who get the paper contribute a few stamps.. 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!**

If you'd like to see *Turning the Tide* more frequently, if you want to contribute to breaking down the walls of isolation and separation imposed by the prison system, please contribute. 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 followers, and email contacts. Everything helps. Nobody makes a dime from working on *TTT*.

If the campaign is successful, we will resume publishing every other month in 2024. Postage is our biggest expense. Nobody gets paid at *TTT*. But stamps increased again to \$.66. We have a handful of people who are sustainers, making a monthly donation, a larger number of people who subscribe once a year or so. Right now, we are at about 10% of our goal. LA area 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:

https://ko-fi.com/anti_racist_action_la and donate, or use paypal to antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com if you prefer. 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.

"Concrete Coffins": Surviving Extreme Heat Behind Bars

Record temperatures in much of the U.S. threatening more people in prisons.

by Jamiles Lartey <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2023/07/22/texas-heat-prison-louisiana>

Sweltering doesn't even describe it.

This week, more than a third of the U.S. population was under excessive heat warnings and heat advisories. Dozens of major cities and states have set new temperature records in recent weeks, including Baton Rouge, Louisiana, which logged its hottest June ever.

Less than an hour from the city is Louisiana State Penitentiary, better known as Angola prison, where the state set up a temporary youth jail last fall, in a building that once housed adults awaiting execution.

A federal court filing this week from the Louisiana American Civil Liberties Union alleges that the youth at Angola face inhumane conditions, in large part because they are regularly kept in non-airconditioned cells for up to 72 hours. In a statement to the court, medical expert Dr. Susi U. Vassallo called the practice "foolhardy and perilous," and said, "I would not dare to keep my dog in these conditions for fear of my dog dying."

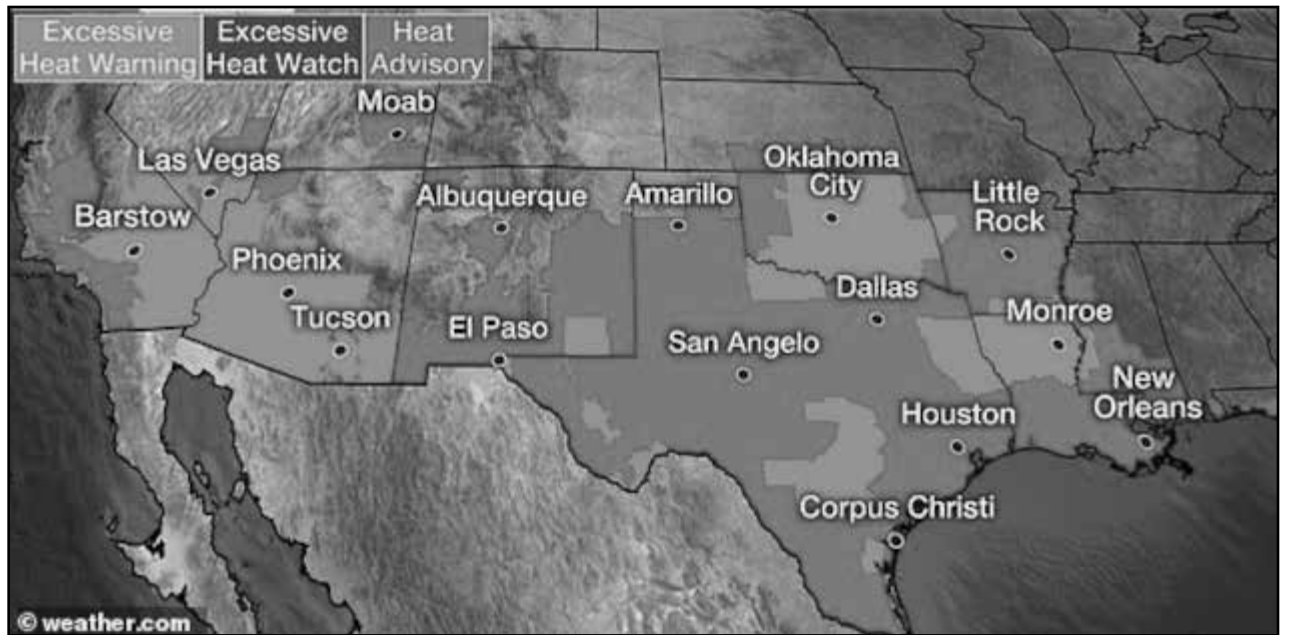
This June and July at the prison, the heat index has regularly exceeded 125 degrees, which the National Weather Services classifies as "extreme danger" for heat-related illness and death.

In 2021, Louisiana spent \$2.8 million to study what it would cost to cool all of its prisons with air conditioning, but it is still waiting on results. In the meantime, adults at Angola — the state's largest facility — struggle for relief. "It's over 100 degrees in there. I lie on the floor. I barely can breathe. God, it feels like it's suffocating!" an unidentified person told The Advocate.

It's hardly just a Louisiana problem. Texas is the state most frequently tied to prison heat, as it is both the largest state prison system in the country, and one of the hottest states on average, second only to Florida. More than two-thirds of Texas state prisons do not have air conditioning in their living quarters. In May, state senators killed a bill — which had passed the state House — that would have invested half a billion dollars into air conditioning prisons over the next eight years.

Texas hasn't officially declared a heat-related death behind bars since 2012. But a November study in the Journal of American Medicine concluded that 271 deaths in Texas prisons between 2001 and 2019 "may be attributable to extreme heat days." A separate nationwide study released this week found that for every 10 degrees above the average summer temperature, prison deaths increase by 5.2%.

The Texas prison system does have a program for sorting out which people are most sensitive to the heat and transferring them to so-called "cool beds" at prisons with



air conditioning, largely because of lawsuits. Those left behind describe the conditions as torture.

Last month, *The New York Times* interviewed more than a dozen currently and formerly incarcerated people about the "effort at survival" behind bars during extreme heat. Several reported flooding their cells and lying on the wet concrete for relief, while others scream or light fires to draw attention from guards. In a newsletter about heat in prisons last summer, we covered some more of the desperate and inventive methods that people employ to survive the heat.

In a powerful essay earlier this month for Prism Reports, Kwaneta Harris, who is in prison in Texas, writes that women in her unit regularly engage in self-harm just to be transferred to the air-conditioned psychiatric unit, a tactic that guards try to dissuade with threats of tear gas. She also notes the dramatic increase in the cost of bottled water in the prison store in the depths of the heatwave. "I guess price gouging is legal when the state is the gouger and prisoners are the customers. This all contributes to desperation," Harris writes.

Corrections officers don't spend as much time in prisons as incarcerated people, but many still face punishing conditions from the heat. It's not uncommon for guards to work 12- or 14-hour shifts outfitted in a bulky stab-proof vest, the head of an officer's union in Texas told KXAN-TV. "It's comparable to if you go buy the heaviest coat possible, put that coat on and go to Texas Memorial Stadium and run up and down the stairs constantly," Executive Director Jeff Ormsby told the station.

Corrections officials and lawmakers throughout the South have cited non-airconditioned prisons as a major impediment to hiring officers. As my colleague Maurice

Chammah recently told PBS News Hour, "Part of that is that they don't want to live through the heat, but part of it is also the corrections officers don't want to live with the increased levels of violence, of suicide, and other problems that are in a prison during these hottest summer months."

Staff shortages, in turn, can worsen punishingly hot conditions. At the Dauphin County Prison in central Pennsylvania, prisoners have been on lockdown through most of July due to staffing issues, according to county officials. That means people spend 23 hours a day in cells with no ventilation, air conditioning or windows. Lack of staff can also hamper access to the "heat mitigation" strategies that most prison systems employ, which include access to ice, extra showers, and fans.

Even facilities with air conditioning can face dangerous heat when those systems fail. That was the case on Tuesday at the Perryville women's prison complex in Arizona, where some evaporative coolers failed. Indoor temperatures quickly climbed as high as 98 degrees, and women there told KPNX that the cells were like "concrete coffins."

Jamiles Lartey is a New Orleans-based staff writer for The Marshall Project. Previously, he worked as a reporter for the Guardian covering issues of criminal justice, race and policing. Jamiles was a member of the team behind the award-winning online database "The Counted," tracking police violence in 2015 and 2016. In 2016, he was named "Michael J. Feeney Emerging Journalist of the Year" by the National Association of Black Journalists. In his off time, Jamiles is an avid drummer, playing and recording with artists in the New Orleans area.

8th Los Angeles Anarchist Book Fair: August 12, 2023 Art Share LA, 10a-5p, 801 E 4th Place, LA 90013

10:30am: Solidarity Collectives (Ukraine) will present in Classroom 1, and Hafsa Kanjwal will present her book *Colonizing Kashmir* in Classroom 2

11:05am: Shane Burley and Michael Novick will discuss *Anti-Fascism and their book ¡No Pasarán! Anti-Fascist Dispatches from a World in Crisis* in Classroom 2

12:00pm-12:30pm: (Lunch break)

12:35pm: Alexandra Hong and Jorge Rivera will discuss *Tenants' Rights* in Classroom 1, and Marisa Holmes and Jez Bold will present Marisa's book *Organizing Occupy Wall Street* in Classroom 2

1:55pm: Los Angeles For All presents on radical municipalism in Classroom 1, and Tom Wetzel and Wayne Price discuss Tom's *Overcoming Capitalism* in Classroom 2

3:00pm: Sean Patterson will present his book *Makhno and Memory* in Classroom 2

3:15pm: Bill Weinberg, Wayne Price, Yevgeny Lerner, and Bill Fletcher discuss *Ukraine and Anarchist Internationalism* in Classroom 1

4:00pm: Pushing Down the Walls (PDTW) will present in Classroom 2 *Copies of The Blue Agave Revolution: Poetry of the Blind Rebel* by Oso Blanco (Byron Shane Chubbuck) and Michael Novick will be available.

5:00pm: The 8th LA Anarchist Book Fair ends!

At 7:30, LA Peoples Movement Assembly will sponsor a follow-up panel and discussion of lessons from Occupy Wall Street and Occupy LA for contemporary people's assembly movements with Marisa Holmes, author of a book & film on OWS, Michael Novick of ARA and OLA General Strike Prep Committee, Yvonne Yen Liu of Occupy Oakland and LA 4 All, and others at Robinson S.P.A.C.E., 4308 Burns Ave., L.A. 90029.

URGENT APPEAL

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Postage alone for this issue comes to over \$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

Florida's Black history standards are even worse than reported

<https://thegrio.com/2023/07/27/floridas-black-history-standards-are-even-worse-than-reported/> BY Michael Harriot [Excerpts]

If you're Black, you've been here before.

Aside from sitting through countless classes in which a social studies teacher valorizes the men and women who reduced your ancestors to chattel, every Black person has been pulled aside by a well-meaning white person who wants to flaunt their rudimentary knowledge of Black history. It usually happens on MLK Day or at the office Juneteenth celebration, when Caroline proudly asks, "Did you know" a Black history fact that you learned before you could even read. But, to be fair, this isn't Caroline's fault... White people don't know anything about Black history.

Research shows white students generally perform worse than Black students when it comes to African American history. Poll after poll shows that Black Americans are more likely than whites to know that slavery caused the Civil War. According to a 2016 study, only 8 to 9% of class time in K-12 social studies classes is devoted to Black history. However, a study of Black History Month activities at K-12 schools found that majority-Black schools are more likely to teach Black history, while majority-white schools are more likely to prioritize "individual achievements over historical barriers." Pew Research notes that Black adults are twice as likely to say they learned Black history from family members than in a K-12 classroom. Black college grads are more likely to study ethnic, cultural or gender groups in college compared to white graduates. But here's the interesting part:

White people think they know history. White people are more likely than Black people to say they know about the civil rights movement, the Civil War and emancipation and Reconstruction. Perhaps this is why people were shocked when the Florida State Board of Education (which only has one member who actually has experience as an educator) introduced its new social studies curriculum that requires teachers to tell students "how slaves developed skills which, in some instances, could be applied for their personal benefit."

Vice President Kamala Harris decried the state-sanctioned whitewashing. "Adults know what slavery really involved," Harris told a Jacksonville, Florida crowd. "It involved rape. It involved torture. It involved taking a baby from their mother ... [and] some of the worst examples of depriving people of humanity in our world." Florida's anti-woke Governor Ron Desantis tried to distance himself from the standards while others have defended the new curriculum standards composed by the state's African American History Task Force.

But when theGrio examined the FDOE's full "African American History Strand," we discovered that the "trade-school-for-enslaved people" narrative wasn't even the most egregious part of Florida's new academic curriculum standards. The state guidelines include multiple examples of historical fiction, including some that perpetuate misconceptions, conservative ideology and long-held white falsehoods about Black history. Many of the requirements simply reflect ahistorical conservative talking points that often are regurgitated whenever someone brings up inequality.

The individual discrepancies are too numerous to list. To shine a light on the most glaring probably-not-intentional errors, theGrio decided to list the top ten parts of Florida's miseducation of the white man.

10. The enslaved benefited from slavery

Florida's white history mandate: The curriculum guide states that children will learn "how slaves developed skills which, in some instances, could be applied for their personal benefit."

Why it's wrong: Let's get this one out of the way. Although it is not even close to the worst part of the Sunshine State's white history program, it reinforces a recurring argument used by slavery apologists—that Black people benefited from being enslaved.

An African was one of the first to grow wheat in the Americas. Rice, cotton and indigo did not grow in places occupied by white people. It was the expertise of the enslaved that transformed African horticultural knowledge into America's first cash crops. African architects and bricklayers taught white people how to build homes that could withstand the American climate. Colonizers traveled to West Africa to steal blacksmiths because white people needed to benefit from skills Africans developed before slavery. Onesimus, an enslaved Muslim, introduced inoculation to America.

This narrative also undergirds another argument. People who have only been exposed to whitewashed history, some of whom are Black, actually believe Black people benefited from being introduced to white Jesus. Because of their lack of historical knowledge, they have no clue that the Jamestown settlers reached America two years before King James created a version of the Bible for white people. At least 512,924 Africans were enslaved in America before the King James version was printed in Britain's North American colonies.

9. Black "patriots" fought in the American Revolution

Florida's white history mandate: Students are required to "examine the service and sacrifice of African patriots during the Revolutionary Era (e.g., Crispus Attucks, Peter Salem, James Armistead Lafayette, 1st Rhode Island Regiment)

Why it's wrong: On July 10, 1775, seven days after some white man named George Washington became commander in chief of the disparate colonial militias, the new Continental Army's recruiters were instructed: "not to enlist...any Negro, or vagabond, or person suspected of being an enemy of the liberty of America..." The actual US Army website notes, "At the start of the war, Washington had been a vocal opponent of recruiting black men, both free and especially slaves." It wasn't until the all-white patriots were getting their butts kicked that Washington's all-white Army welcomed Black soldiers.

Even still, there isn't a shred of historical evidence that Crispus Attucks believed in the patriot cause. In fact, he was initially cast as a villain in America's origin story. Peter Salem enlisted as an alternative to life as human chattel. When they mention the Rhode Island Regiment, Florida should specify which one. Are they referring to the Black Rhode Islanders in the state's militia that caused racist Rhode Islanders to repeal the law recruiting slaves and declare "no negro, mulatto and Indian slave, be permitted to enlist?" Perhaps they want students to learn about the Continental Army's segregated 1st Rhode Island Regiment that reenslaved Black soldiers and refused to compensate them after the war. In the case of Lafayette, the Rhode Island regiment and many others, the new nation reneged on its promise to free him in exchange for his service.

Approximately five thousand Black men fought for America in the Revolutionary War; more than 20,000 fought against America. Even the Black Loyalists in the American Revolution were not fighting to preserve the British empire. They were fighting for their freedom.

8. The white people who fought to end slavery:

Florida's white history mandate: The standards will supposedly teach students about the "political figures who strove to abolish the institution



of slavery," such as Abraham Lincoln. Florida also requires its educators to explain "the desire of the Continental Congress to end the importation of slaves." George Washington is listed as a "key figure in the quest to end slavery."

Why it's wrong: George Washington never freed an enslaved person a day in his life. While he said things about slavery and wrote some down on paper, Washington never proposed a single piece of legislation, an executive order or a declaration that even sought to abolish slavery. He characterized the whipping of a woman he owned as "very proper" and hunted Ona Judge, a woman who escaped his forced labor camp at Mount Vernon, until the day he died. He died owning 317 enslaved people.

During the American Revolution, the Continental Congress temporarily halted the slave trade as a consequence of stopping all trade. Had they desired to end the human trafficking industry, they could have. They did not.

7. But Black people owned slaves, too!

Florida's white history mandate: "Instruction includes the shift in attitude toward Africans as Colonial America transitioned from indentured servitude to race-based, hereditary slavery (i.e., Anthony Johnson, John Casor). The examples of "specific headright settlers" only lists the Black people who benefited from the colonial policy of giving 50 acres of free land to colonial human traffickers.

Actual history: Thomas Jefferson owned slaves. So did George Washington and 41 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence. But, for some reason, the Florida Dept. of Education only lists Black people as slave owners.

In 1830, 3,777 free Black people enslaved 12,907 Black people, about one-half of one percent of the 2 million people enslaved in America, according to a study by Black historian Carter G. Woodson. Even in these cases, Woodson notes: "The census records show that the majority of the Negro owners of slaves were such from the point of view of philanthropy. In many instances, the husband purchased the wife, or vice versa ... Slaves of Negroes were in some cases, the children of a free father who had purchased his wife. If he did not thereafter emancipate the mother, as so many such husbands failed to do, his own children were born his slaves and were thus reported."

6. Negro conservatives

Florida's white history mandate: Black conservatives Thomas Sowell and Shelby Steele are listed as "political figures who shaped the modern Civil Rights efforts."

Why it's wrong: Thomas Howell, a Black conservative economist, and Shelby Steele, a conservative academic and columnist, are not politicians. They are not political figures and have never held elected office. Aside from echoing and cosigning the talking points and values of white conservatives, they have no significant following or impact or even leadership roles in Black-led organizations or institutions.

5. But slavery existed in every society

Florida's white history mandate: According to the standards, students will "Examine the condition of slavery as it existed in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe prior to 1619...Instruction includes how trading in slaves developed in African lands (e.g., Benin, Dahomey). Instruction includes the practice of the Barbary Pirates in kidnapping Europeans and selling them into slavery in Muslim countries (i.e., Muslim slave markets in North Africa, West Africa, Swahili Coast, Horn of Africa, Arabian Peninsula, Indian Ocean slave trade). Instruction includes how slavery was utilized in Asian cultures (e.g., Sumerian law code, Indian caste system). Instruction includes the similarities between serfdom and slavery and emergence of the term "slave" in the experience of Slavs. Instruction includes how slavery among indigenous peoples of the Americas was utilized prior to and after European colonization."

Why it's wrong: Every Black person has heard a not-so-smart white person use the Caucastic version of this argument. Depending on the person's ignorance of actual history, they will equate Irish indentured servants, Roman prisoners of war and even debt peonage with America's race-based, intergenerational, constitutionally enshrined human trafficking system that uses violence or the threat of violence to reduce humans to chattel.

America's unique form of forced labor was different. While the African participants in the slave trade cannot be held blameless, a system like the one that evolved in and built this country had never existed in the history of the world. The victims were not enemy combatants, debtors or the spoils of war – all of which existed in societies since time immemorial. American-style "slavery" was racially homogenous. It was permanent and perpetually inheritable. And most importantly, it did not exist in Africa or anywhere on the planet until white people showed up.

4. You can be Black and patriotic... But not both

Florida's white history mandate: "Students will identify characteristics of responsible citizenship (e.g., peaceable assembly, obeying the law, community involvement). Clarification 2: Students will identify characteristics of irresponsible citizenship (e.g., disorderly assembly, breaking the law)."

Why it's wrong: Crispus Attucks and Martin Luther King Jr. both engaged in civil disobedience, so apparently, they were not patriots like the rowdy guys from Boston who throw tea parties. The Ku Klux Klan and the White Leagues were really involved in their communities and said the pledge of allegiance before every cross burning. Apparently, in Florida, pledging allegiance to the flag of a country that has never pledged its allegiance to Black people is more patriotic than protesting injustice.

3. There's a lot missing

Florida's white history mandate: While it is impossible to teach all of Black history, perhaps the most significant thing about Florida's guidelines is the stuff that is intentionally left out. There is nothing about redlining and how its residual effects still shape the lives of African Americans. There

are eight mentions of "race riots" but only three "massacres" and a single "lynching." Floridians will not learn about segregation and Jim Crow when they reach the eighth grade. Even then, those government-backed regulations are only taught as a policy that Black people overcame, not something that still impacts the country today.

Why it's wrong: While Florida wants kids to learn how Black people benefited from being enslaved, there is no benchmark that requires students to examine how every white person benefited from living in an economy built on free labor. The curriculum includes a little about the slave trade without mentioning the thousands of Africans who were stolen and kidnapped without the help of Africans. It teaches how "African men, both enslaved and free, participated in the Continental Army," but not that the majority of Black soldiers in the American Revolution sided with the British.

They don't have to tell students that Thomas Jefferson was a racist. But it is malpractice to omit that the same man who wrote "all men are created equal" also noted that "the blacks...are inferior to the whites in the endowments both of body and mind." No educator should tell students that beloved President Abraham Lincoln was a white supremacist. However, it is also impossible to teach students about Lincoln's political beliefs and motivations without telling them that he said: "I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the black and white races... [T]here must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any other man am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race."

2. Where are all the white people?

Florida's white history mandate: Aside from evaluating the "opposition of Southern whites to Reconstruction," here is every mention of white people in the entire curriculum guide: "Instruction includes how collaboration of free blacks, whites, churches and organizations assisted in the Underground Railroad"

"Instruction includes how whites who supported Reconstruction policies for freed blacks after the Civil War (white southerners being called scalawags and white northerners being called carpetbaggers) were targeted."

"Instruction includes the influence of white and black political leaders who fought on behalf of African Americans in state and national legislatures and courts."

"Assess the building of coalitions between African Americans, whites, and other groups in achieving integration and equal rights."

Why it's wrong: The entire curriculum perpetuates the misbegotten, ahistorical narrative that most white people were interested in freedom, liberty and justice for Black people. That is not a myth; it is a lie. Even if only a tiny minority of white people committed all the violence, inhumanity and injustices levied against Black Americans, it could not have continued if the vast majority of white people didn't allow it. If most white Americans wanted to ban slavery, the nation wouldn't have endured the bloodiest war in the history of this continent. If white northerners objected to racial apartheid laws, it wouldn't have spread to the South after the Civil War. Most white Americans thought civil rights demonstrations were "not justified." Eighty-five percent felt "the demonstrations by Negroes on civil rights hurt ...the advancement of Negro rights."

1. It makes white people comfortable.

Florida's white history mandate: No history course can teach everything. The "African American History Strand" is just one of eleven strands, making up about 9.2 percent of the entire social studies curriculum. There is a civics strand, a world history strand, psychology, financial history and even Holocaust education.

Why it's wrong: In 2019, Florida's public schools were 37.4 percent white, 37.4 percent Hispanic and 21.2 percent Black. Not only are non-white taxpayers funding a disproportionately white version of history, but they are paying to whitewash their own. Meanwhile, white Floridians who want to learn more about their history and culture can take an Advanced Placement course in European History, German Language and Culture, French Language and Culture, Italian Language and Culture or United States History. Even those not necessarily interested in white history can enroll in the AP Chinese Language and Culture, Spanish Language and Culture, Spanish Literature and Culture, and Japanese Language and Culture.

AP African American Studies is banned in Florida, partly because it makes white people uncomfortable. Florida's STOP WOKE Act prohibits classroom instruction that makes white people "feel guilt, anguish, or other forms of psychological distress, because of actions, in which the individual played no part, committed in the past by other members of the same race."

Like the legislation, the new curriculum standards are for white people. Everyone except white people believes that increased public attention to the history of racism is good for society. While 62% of Black people and 58% of Hispanics want schools to teach children about the ongoing effects of slavery and racism, most white people do not. How history is taught in schools has always given Black people anguish and psychological distress; white people are perfectly comfortable with Black people's discomfort.

Considering their ignorance of actual history, white people's hubristic insistence on how our history should be taught is as remarkable as their continued comfort with four centuries of intentional pro-white propaganda. In many ways, the arrogance of racism really is impressive. And again, not all white people are racist. They may have simply developed skills that, in some instances, could be applied for their personal benefit.

Michael Harriot is a writer, cultural critic and championship-level Spades player. His book, **Black AF History: The Unwhitewashed Story of America**, will be released in September.

Free Peppy and Krystal!

<https://freepeppyandkrystal.blackblogs.org/>

In the early hours of May 19th, heavily armed agents raided the home of two long-term Pittsburgh activists, Brian “Peppy” DiPippa and Krystal DiPippa. Nearly a month and a half later they were both federally indicted on charges stemming from a demonstration against a University of Pittsburgh sanctioned event promoting transphobic hate speech. On June 30th, they both surrendered to the court with Krystal being released the same day, but Peppy remains in pre-trial detention. The raid, and their arrests are a part of a larger framework of repression by federal agents, working in tandem with local law enforcement, against community resistance.

Peppy and Krystal are exceptional and caring humans. For decades they have been active participants in solidarity with oppressed and marginalized people.



Their tireless advocacy and community building has put them in the crosshairs of state repression. They will both undoubtedly face a long and arduous court process in the months, if not years, ahead and will need a variety of care, support and compassion. Today they need our support.

We invite you to check this website to find updates on how to support them and to get updates on the case.

Let’s make sure Peppy knows just how much support he has from all over the country and all over the world! Whether you sit down and write him one evening or get together with friends and all send him letters of support and solidarity! Never forget just how much each and every letter will mean day after day, week after week!

To write to Peppy, address the mail to:

Butler County Prison
c/o Brian DiPippa
#42322 PO Box 9156
Seminole, FL 33775-9156

(All mail sent to the Butler County Prison in PA has to get sent to that Florida spot where it’ll get scanned and then prisoners at Butler read it on a screen.)

Please be careful what you include in your letter to Peppy. Since he’s pre-trial and all mail will be monitored please don’t ask him about the case. Discussing any aspect of the case could come back to haunt him at any stage while the case is open. But don’t be afraid to let him know about a hike you just went on or a meal you just made with friends! The details of such events will help him get away from the isolation that he faces every day!

NYC ABC has a page on their website that serves as a great intro for anyone who has not written to a political prisoner before. Check it out before writing to Peppy for some helpful hints! nycabc.wordpress.com/write-a-letter/

As you’re sitting down to write that first letter to Peppy please know he’s looking forward to hearing from any and all supporters! And if you’re wondering what to write make note that Peppy really likes skate-boarding, comedy, and uplifting and heartwarming stories. He also likes hearing about and learning about people and places all over the globe. So, feel free to reach out and connect on any of those topics!

Solidarity!

FREE VICTOR!

Victor is an #Indigenous land defender who has spent much of his adult life caring for the water, for the land, for his elders. On March 5, 2023, Victor was arrested at the South River Music Festival. Victor was unloading camping equipment from his truck with his dog inside when heavily armed police charged at him from the woods, violently assaulted him, and hauled him to jail. After spending months inside DeKalb County without bail set or being indicted for a crime, he has now been transferred to an ICE facility where he again sits without bail. Victor has given so much to so many throughout his life — please stand with him and demand his freedom!

Ways you can support Victor:

1. Learn more about Victor and read his statement at <https://www.freevictor.org/> (link in @stopcopcity Linktree)
2. Add Commissary Funds for Victor:
CoreCivic - Puertas, Victor #6153330; Facility: STWRT, P.O. Box 16545. Atlanta, GA 30321-0545
3. Send funds directly to Victor’s support crew via Venmo (@WildCatMaggie “Maggie D”), use caption “Free Victor”
4. Send Letters to Victor:
Victor Puertas #095610252, 6B 215B, P.O. Box 248, Lumpkin, GA 31815
5. Call ICE’s Atlanta Field Office at 404-893-1290 and demand Victor be released immediately! Victor’s A-Number is 095610252

#stopcopcity #defendatlantaforest #Atlanta #atl #abolishICE #abolishborders #noborders

PART’s Perspective:

Overcoming Fascism in Power: Hot Town, Summer in the City

by Michael Novick, ARA-LA/PART

Fascist methods of rule and participation and even leadership of fascist parties in government are being normalized not only in Modi’s India or Orban’s Hungary, but in Italy, where PM Meloni is from a neo-fascist party, heir to Mussolini; in Finland, where a neo-fascist party is part of the ruling coalition; in Sweden, where the neo-fascists support the new right wing government from outside the ruling coalition; in Spain, where the so-called “center-right” hoped to rely on neo-fascists, heirs of Franco, to form a government. Despite the blind spot by pundits who can’t see what’s under their noses, here in the US the majority leader of the House of Representatives had to empower the neo-fascist wing of his party to take office; the federal judiciary up to the Supreme Court is stocked with judges committed to advancing corporate power and denying human rights; and federal, state and local law enforcement and prosecutors every more routinely charge peaceful climate defenders and human rights defenders as “domestic terrorists.” Every school board and library system is terrain being claimed by book-burners. Call it what it is.

People who pay lip service to George Jackson’s 1970s class analysis and dictum that “Fascism is already here” are unprepared to acknowledge the reality that what came to be known as fascism has always been part of the methods of rule in the US as a settler colony, including enslavement of labor, concentration camps based on genocide, land theft and ethnic displacement, as well as the incorporation of cross-class sectors of society into the state and the enforcement apparatus of settler colonial, white supremacist, patriarchal, racial capitalism.

Progressives, anti-authoritarians, and freedom fighters of every nationality must learn and incorporate anti-fascist methods of organizing and resistance long used by prisoners inside US prisons and jails, and now immigrant detention centers. These same methods apply to increasingly repressive schools, and to workplaces where AI and keystroke surveillance are being perfected to dominate the workers who cannot be replaced. These measures are taken by a system that understands it can no longer meet basic human needs even of those it has attempted to control through privilege, let alone those it has always controlled through coercion and criminalization, and that the social fabric and social contract will not withstand the dislocations coming due to catastrophic climate change.

We need to share this understanding of irreconcilable contradiction with the striking workers of Hollywood, corporate health care, and the hotels, with the embattled teachers, nurses and librarians, with tenants facing mass evictions, and work to translate it into a path forward to concretely meet human needs and the demands of planetary habitability, to collectively free our minds from the rulers’ grip. The fascist upsurge is a measure of the rulers’ incapacity to rule as they have before; we must strengthen our solidarity, unity and resistance to turn that weakness to our advantage, and push forwards towards liberation.

Chronicle of the Third Seizure of Lima. Peru

By Julieta Díaz Lozano on July 25, 2023

<https://resumen-english.org/2023/07/chronicle-of-the-third-seizure-of-lima/> [Excerpts]

In total more than 100,000 people mobilized throughout the country calling for the resignation of the coup leader Dina Boluarte in Peru. Again there were arrests and injuries. In spite of a gigantic repressive operation and a campaign of fear of several weeks, a multitude participated in the streets of the so-called Third Seizure of Lima this July 19. The central demands were, besides the departure of Boluarte and the resignation of the entire Congress, a Constituent Assembly to re-found the country. Regarding former president Pedro Castillo, an important sector demanded his reinstatement in office, while other sectors demanded immediate elections.

The operation of the repressive forces included police barriers in public buildings, hydrant cars, motorcycles and the presence of tanks as part of the intimidation of the people. At the end of the mobilization, when the columns tried to reach the Congress, they were repressed with tear gas. At least six people were seriously injured and arrests were made. [The US has discussed sending troops to Peru.]

Among the organizations were the Central Única Nacional de Rondas Campesinas del Perú (CUNARC), the Confederación General de los Trabajadores del Perú (CGP), teachers, Quechua and Aymara, markets and various human rights and gender collectives, as well as a massive block of artists who provided music and interventions to the mobilization.

Parallel to the Lima Takeover, mobilizations were held in 53 points of the country that also sent their delegations to the central activity in the capital and seven national roads were blocked during the day. The march in Lima started from different important squares of the city, but it was a united column that went through government buildings and ended in Plaza San Martín.

Among the delegations from the regions that traveled to Lima were the Central Unica de Rondas Campesinas de Huancamba, Piura region. Its president, Jesús Raúl Meléndez de Guayama, explains that, to the general demands of the Toma, they add a historical struggle of their people against predatory mining. “We have been fighting for 20 years, during which we were persecuted and repressed for opposing the Río Blanco mining project. The usurper president, Dina Boluarte, wants to give the green light to the mining concessions, she wants to renew them, despite the fact that they do not have a social license”. And he adds “that is why we have come from here to support our Peruvian people and to demand that this government resign and also that this corrupt Congress be closed and that a referendum be held for a new constitution”.

Nicolás Aguilar Ibarra, a member of the Lima-based Emancipador Group and a militant with extensive union experience, describes the mobilization as a moment to accumulate forces on the road to Dina’s dismissal. “The coup d’état was managed from the US Embassy so the struggle is not only for the restitution of Castillo, but for a change of this neoliberal system that comes managed from the north and among other things made that only 5 percent of the economically active population has a registered job and can organize,” he stated. For the interviewee, the demand for a Constituent Assembly could also be a unifying process to change the neoliberal character of Peru.

In Plaza 2 de Mayo, the campaign “No more deaths for protesting” carried out an intervention with crosses and coffins mentioning the names of the more than 60 dead from last summer’s repression. Abel Gilbonio, spokesperson for the Campaign, explained that the Campaign also groups together a group of environmental defenders who denounce police murders prior to the protests against Dina, in territorial conflicts. “It is a nationwide articulation, mainly located in the south of the country and also in Lima that brings together collectives, environmental defenders, human rights institutions, etc. that are pushing and raising this slogan to stop the indiscriminate use, the criminal use of public force against the legitimate right of citizen protest.” He points out that the campaign tries to confront people’s fear to mobilize. “Years ago we went out to protest and well, we knew there could be confrontation, but now people are afraid, because they are afraid of being criminalized, of being accused of being terrorists, or the maximum, of being killed.”

On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide & ARA-LA/PART:

Archives of *Turning the Tide* at www.antiracist.org go back 35 years. In addition, we’re on FB, at facebook.com/tideturning, and IG [@antiracistaction_la](https://instagram.com/antiracistaction_la); you can follow [@ara_losangeles](https://twitter.com/ara_losangeles) on Twitter, and the De-Colonize LA! blog at ara-la.tumblr.com.

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TURNING THE TIDE

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INSIDE

- ### UPCOMING EVENTS:
- ★ Commemorate Black August with Study, Training, Serving the People
 - ★ August 6-9 Remember Hiroshima, Nagasaki - No Nukes, No War!
 - ★ Aug 3 - 31 KPFK member drive: <https://kpfk.org> or 818-985-5735 opt 2
 - ★ Aug 12 - LA Anarchist Book Fair, Art Space LA, No Pasaran! panel
 - ★ Aug 12 - LA 4 All Reflects on OWS, Occupy LA, Robinson SPACE, 7 pm
 - ★ Aug 26 - Commemorate the Chicano Moratorium, Salazar Park, East LA

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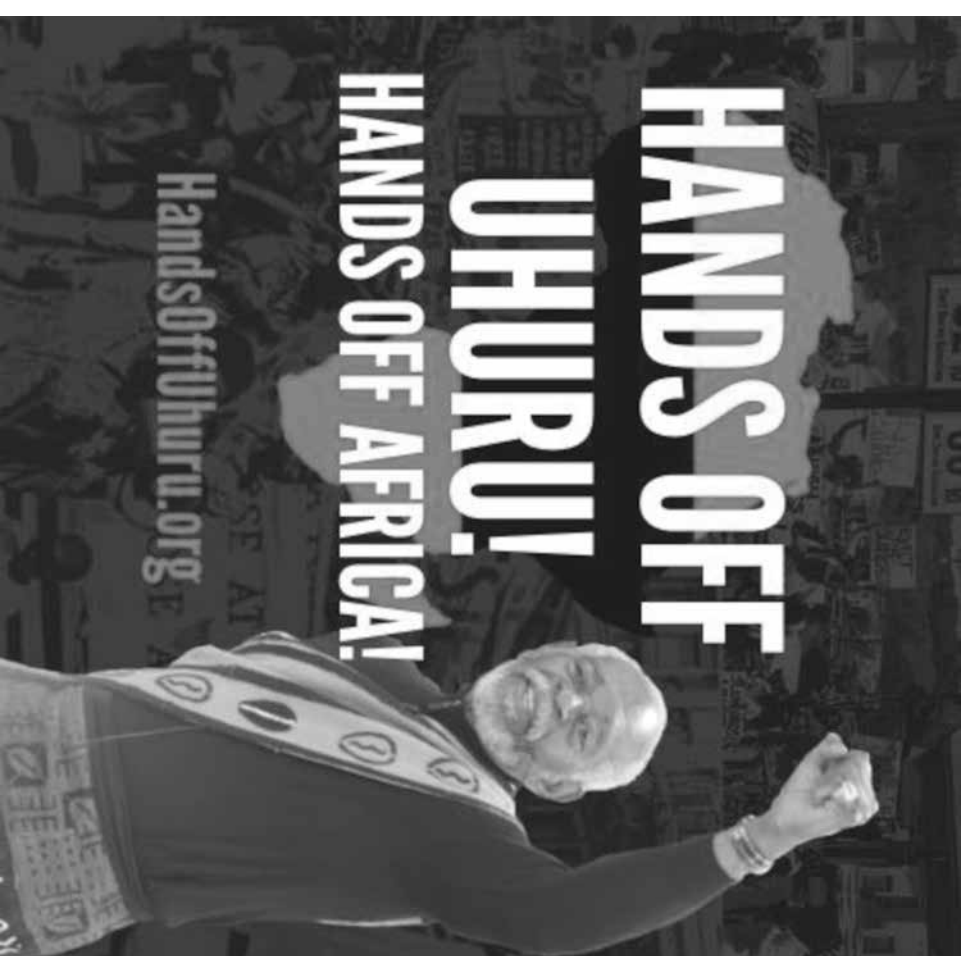
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