

# RICARDO ROMERO, ¡PRESENTE!

Compañeras , Compañeros, Friends, Allies:

With a truly saddened heart we inform you that the co-founder and long-time National Spokesperson of our organization, the Movimiento De Liberacion Nacional (MLN), Compañero Ricardo Romero passed last Friday, April 28, 2023.

Compañero Ricardo was a tireless committed fighter for our people since the 1960's. He was a member of the Crusade for Justice in Colorado. He supported the striking workers at Kitayama farms in Northern Colorado. He participated in the 1968 Poor People's March on Washington with a delegation of our people. He helped coordinate the People's Moratorium on Police Abuse in the late 1970's in New York City.

In 1978, he co-founded the MLN, which at that time represented the unity of Mexican and Puerto Rican national liberation struggles. Compañero Ricardo testified several times at the United Nations on behalf of the Mexicano struggle for national liberation and in support of the Puerto Rican independence struggle. Ricardo was twice jailed for his non-collaboration stance before grand juries which were investigating the Puerto Rican independence struggle.

Compañero Ricardo was instrumental in leading an armed land take-over in Tierra Amarilla and establishing the Tierra Amarilla Youth Brigades.

Compañero Ricardo built important ties with the New African liberation struggle. Compañero Ricardo traveled to Puerto Rico and to the Basque lands in order to internationalize the struggle of the Mexicano people.

In the 1970's Compañero Ricardo was a member of the Partido Proletario Unido de America, led by Florencio "GUERO" Medrano. Guero was the first Mexicano guerrillero who recognized that Mexico was militarily divided with an occupied Northern territory and a dependent nation in the south.

Ricardo Romero's memory, commitment and teachings will live on and guide us as we continue the Mexicano people's struggle for national liberation and socialist reunification.

A Memorial Tribute and Celebration of his life will be held on May 16 in Denver, Colorado.

**Salon Real Denver**

**2200 W Alameda Ave #30 Denver, Colorado**

**10:00 am - 6:00 pm**

CON UN HOMBRO MENOS,  
we will continue the struggle!!

RICARDO ROMERO LIVES IN THE PEOPLE'S  
STRUGGLE!!!

--Movimiento de Liberación Nacional

## For Compañero Ricardo Romero

On behalf of the New Afrikan Peoples Organization and the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, We salute the life of our companero, Ricardo Romero. For us, Companero Ricardo is a legendary revolutionary and



freedom fighter. His leadership and solidarity in the face of political repression stood as an example to our organization in its infancy. We were impressed with his stand of non-collaboration to the federal grand jury targeted to destroy the Puerto Rican and Chicano-Mexicano national liberation movements inside the u.s. empire.

From Compañero Ricardo, We learned the revolutionary potential of the national liberation struggle against u.s. occupation of the northern portion of Mexico (aka the southwest of the continental u.s.). Compañero Ricardo taught us the history of the Plan de San Diego, where in 1915 Mexican revolutionaries called for revolutionary solidarity with Black liberation in the New Afrikan (Black) territory (in the southeastern portion of the continental u.s.). Compañero Ricardo also hosted our youth organizations, the New Afrikan Scouts and New Afrikan Panthers to Tierra Amarillo in the early 1990s to convene and learn together with Chicano-Mexicano youth. He also accompanied Mexicano youth to our Black Nation Day gathering in Jackson, Mississippi in 1993 to continue the building of anti-imperialist solidarity.

In Ricardo's memory, and that of our Ancestors, Chokwe Lumumba, Ahmed Obafemi, and Nehanda Abiodun, We must re-build the solidarity between our movements and other national liberation forces within the u.s. empire. We still view our unity and solidarity as critical for the liberation of our respective peoples and providing a path forward to a world that respects humanity, self-determination, the environment and a future for our children and generations unborn.

Long Live Companero Ricardo Romero  
His Spirit Will Live Forever  
Long Live the Mexicano National Liberation Movement  
Free the Land

## Ricardo Romero - Live Like Him!

by Michael Novick, ARA-LA/PART

Ricardo Romero always walked the walk. He lived, breathed and shared a commitment to the struggling people and to a revolutionary process that would create a better world. I had the honor and privilege to meet him

and learn from him in the context of his incarceration for upholding the principle of non-collaboration and a refusal to testify to a grand jury investigating the Puerto Rican independence struggle. This was a manifestation both of his own principled resistance to oppression and repression, and his revolutionary internationalism.

His willingness to go to prison, and then go back to prison, to break the teeth of the empire and its effort to enforce colonialism, was a powerful lesson in the power of principled resistance, and also of personal character. At a time in the late 1970s and early '80s, when many in the so-called New Left were making their separate peace with the empire and the system, Ricardo set an example of living up to a revolutionary consciousness and commitment in practice, based on his own practical experience in life and in the movement. He manifested incorruptibility, and challenged me to live up to my own highest ideals and understandings. Others I am sure knew him longer and better than I, years before I did, but I know he had a big impact on me.

Over the ensuing decades, Ricardo continued to live out his commitments, and invited me to participate. He and Priscilla brought me out to Colorado to speak at several campuses to counter organized white supremacist activity going on there. I had a chance to participate with him and his comrades and family many times at the Tierra Amarilla Youth Leadership training program and see and experience its rootedness in the land and in the community that lived and had lived on that land since before any colonizers had set foot there, or planted the various colonial flags that came and went. He was always clear on the tremendous strategic importance of the struggle of the Mexicano people on both sides of the militarily imposed border to dismantling the empire.

Compañero Ricardo had the capacity to situate political and ideological thinking and development, and revolutionary anti-colonial and anti-settler colonial conceptions of the liberation of Mexico and its people, in practical efforts and internationalist solidarity, expressed in clear and comprehensible language and in a visceral sense of community. He treated people always with respect and really, love.

His care and concern for the young people he and his comrades brought to T.A. and worked with at Al Frente de Lucha and its center was reflected and rewarded in succeeding generations of young people who came up as campers or participants, and transformed and enlightened by their experience, became counselors and organizers, educators and movement builders in their own right.

Compañero Ricardo was always generous with his time, his experience, his curiosity and his hard-earned wisdom. He always set an example of study and reflection on reality and on the summing up of revolutionary experiences by other revolutionaries and other liberation movements. He was never mired in mere reminiscence or in unexamined fealty to former conceptions or mechanisms, but continued to refresh his commitment and to learn from new attempts at revolutionary anti-colonial and anti-capitalist praxis, such as that of the Zapatistas.

***La lucha sigue, sigue - Romero vive, vive!  
Ricardo Romero, presente!***

## The idiocies of "original intent"

by Mumia Abu-Jamal

<https://www.prisonradio.org/commentary/idiocy-of-original-intent/>

For several decades, right wing ideologues and lawyers have argued that the U.S. Constitution must only be interpreted according to what they call original intent—or according to how the Founding Fathers would have intended.

But assuming this were so, how do we know what they intended? In short, we don't, but in some cases, we do.

Thomas Jefferson only wrote one book during his lifetime entitled "Notes on the State of Virginia." But Mr. Jefferson was a writer of letters, and there gave freely of his opinions. In his letter of 24th June, 1813, to John W. S., Jefferson wrote, "The earth belongs to the living, not to the dead."

Thomas Paine was a talented writer whose pamphlets and books steered a nation into a war against the king. His book, "The Rights of Man," published 1791, argued that no generation is bound by the words of the past.

Paine wrote: "Every age and generation must be as free to act in itself in all cases as the ages and generations which preceded it. The vanity and presumption of governing beyond the grave is the most ridiculous and insolent of all tyrannies. Man has no property in man. Neither has any generation of proper and the generations which are to follow." Thomas Paine, American revolutionary.

The idea of original intent didn't come from the



Mumia Abu-Jamal

Founding Fathers. It came from people in our lifetimes in a political project designed to turn the clock back and strip people of their rights. It is an idea based on idiocy.

## The wages of deregulation

by Mumia Abu-Jamal

<https://www.prisonradio.org/commentary/the-wages-of-deregulation/>

A train races through the cool wintry air, its wheels

turning on iron rails until sparks burst into flames, and in the blink of an eye, a city in western Ohio becomes the latest scene of a railroad chemical disaster, for some of the trains contained vinyl chloride, which erupts into flame, belching dark funnels of poisoned air into an early morning sky, and a local town, called East Palestine, also erupts into fits of fear and fury, a roar: how could this happen? How could it?

One way is when politicians, eager to please voters, cuts taxes. You know what happened? Deregulation. That other beloved, cost-cutter, right? Deregulation: that favorite target of so-called conservatives also cut something else. Safety.

The disaster that struck East Palestine, Ohio will give residents heart palpitations and deep worry for generations at least. How many headaches, cancers, or even unknown diseases may result from this massive chemical spill? No one really knows.

Deregulation causes needless disasters. It's as the saying goes: "Penny wise and pound foolish," and it may yet cost lives.

With love, not fear, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

These commentaries are recorded by Prison Radio.

# DECOLONIZE AND DE-NUCLEARIZE THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

Sixty-nine years ago, the United States conducted “Castle Bravo,” its largest-ever nuclear weapons test. Detonated on colonized land in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Bravo was roughly 1,000 times more powerful than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

Castle Bravo was just one of 67 high-yield nuclear tests conducted in the Marshall Islands. These tests vaporized entire islands; spread dangerous radioactive contamination across the country; sickened many Marshallese people, many of whom went on to develop cancers, experience miscarriages or birth defects; and changed life in the Marshall Islands forever.

This year, the Marshall Islands government is negotiating the “Compact of Free Association,” with the US government. The Compact covers many aspects of the relationship between the Marshall Islands and the United States. This agreement is crucial to both countries, but the Marshall Islands has taken a strong stand and said that the existing Compact does not go far enough to address issues of nuclear justice.

There are many grave and ongoing issues that the Marshallese community has called on the US government to address: an apology to the Marshallese people, making good on promised compensation to victims, environmental monitoring and cleanup, healthcare access for exposed populations, and much more.

At the UN General Assembly last September, Marshall Islands President David Kabua said:

“It is vital that the legacy and contemporary challenges of nuclear impact testing be better addressed... The exposure of our people and land has created impacts that have lasted — and will last — for generations. These impacts to our human rights, land, culture, health and lives, are burdens that no other nation or country should ever have to bear.”

Please stand in solidarity with the Marshallese community—call on the Biden administration to fully address these issues of nuclear justice.

These are truly issues of life and death for the Marshallese people. They have fought for decades, in the face of incredible obstacles, for their health and well-being, and now is a critical moment to add your voice to theirs. Please support the Marshall Islands and contact the Biden administration today.

From wayward balloons to the future of TikTok, the US-China relationship has been front-page news, and tensions are high. But you might not have heard about the three small but mighty Pacific Island Nations sitting right in the middle of this tension: the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. These countries each have a unique and important relationship with the United States, recognized in agreements called the Compacts of Free Association (COFA), two of which are up for renewal in the next 6 months.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing on “Renewed U.S. Engagement in the Pacific: Assessing the importance of the Pacific Islands.” Under the Compacts, the US gets exclusive military rights to all land and waters of each country. Given their location in the Western Pacific, not far from China, this is seen as extremely valuable for US national security.

In a rare moment of bipartisanship, helped along by shared concerns about Chinese influence in the region, Rep. Young Kim (R-CA-40) and Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA-6) kicked off the hearing by highlighting the value of the Compacts. Rep Kim also pointed out the necessity of addressing the ongoing legacy from US nuclear testing in the area and the risk of natural disasters. Indeed, the entire committee, both Republicans and Democrats underscored their support of maintaining these agreements. This is promising.

## What are the Compacts of Free Association?

These agreements set up quite the bargain: citizens of the three COFA countries can live and work in the United States indefinitely and move back and forth freely without a visa. They receive economic assistance for things like education and disaster relief, as well as basic services like use of the US Postal Service. And in exchange, the US gets exclusive military rights to the strategically valuable land and waters of each country in the Western Pacific—a maritime area larger than the United States. The US government therefore has a vested interest in keeping the COFA agreements alive and maintaining good relationships with these countries.

But to understand the full picture, and especially to understand what this means for the people living in these countries, we have to back up to World War II.

## US nuclear testing in the Pacific

In 1944, the US seized control of the region from Japan, who had previously controlled the islands. The Marshall Islands, Palau, Micronesia, and the Northern Mariana Islands became “The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands” — bestowed by the UN but under the



control of the United States.

At this time, the US was looking for a “remote” place to test their largest nuclear weapons and they settled on the Marshall Islands. While technically, yes, these islands were remote compared to the continental US testing site in Nevada, as Dr. Arjun Makhijani says, “they were not remote for the Marshallese people; they were home. And they were selected despite the fact that the military’s own evaluation stated that the location did not ‘in the main’ meet the meteorological criteria for safety,” especially because there were populations within 150 miles of the test sites.

The late Ambassador Tony deBrum, a legend in the world of nuclear justice and diplomacy from the Marshall Islands, shared in the last interview he gave:

“There was barely time to take a deep breath and say ‘Ah, peace at last...we have gone through war — not our war, somebody else’s war — but we were caught in the middle, and now we have a chance to breathe easy.’ No, there was not a chance for that. Because every time one of those things went off, was yet another trauma, a very real, physical hurt for our people, but also I think a more permanent psychological trauma that we still witness today...And I would challenge anyone to live through 12 years of testing...that does not come away with a permanent scar...It totally controlled our lives.”

Lijon Eknilang, from Rongelap Atoll in the Marshall Islands, describes her experience after the Castle Bravo test, the largest US nuclear weapons test:

“For many hours, poison from the bomb kept falling on our islands. We kids were playing in the powder, having fun, but later everyone was sick and we couldn’t do anything... Late in the afternoon I became very sick, like I was going to vomit, and I had a bad headache. Toward the evening, our skin began to burn like we had been out in the hot sun all day. The next day, the problems got worse. Big burns began spreading all over our legs, arms, feet, and they hurt very much. Many of us lost our hair. Of course, we did not know that the snow was radioactive. Over the weeks that followed, the fallout that our bodies were exposed to caused blisters and sores. The serious internal and external exposure we received caused long-term health problems that affected my parents’ generation, my generation, and my children’s generation.”

As they have done, and do, over and over again, the Marshallese fought for their rights and justice, and in 1979, the Marshall Islands became an independent country. In 1986, they entered into the first Compact of Free Association with the United States, as did Micronesia, and Palau followed in 1995. Recognizing the severe harm caused by US nuclear activities in the Marshall Islands, their Compact included provisions for environmental monitoring and compensation for loss of health and land. The money allocated proved to be woefully inadequate: According to the National Nuclear Commission, of the nearly \$2.4 billion awarded to the RMI by an independent tribunal for property damage and personal injury, roughly \$2.2 billion was left unpaid.

The RMI compact was renewed in 2003, and now all three Compacts are up for renewal: the Compacts with Micronesia and the Marshall Islands will expire Oct 2023, and Palau’s will expire in 2024.

Benetick Maddison at the Marshallese Educational Initiative had this to say:

“And what of the Marshallese who have already left the islands seeking access to healthcare, education, and employment. The nuclear testing legacy — the driving force behind migration — has taken its toll on all Marshallese people. Most public benefits that were

a part of the original Compact have been removed over the years...What Marshallese qualify for under the Compact — or even the Compact agreement itself — is unknown to most US citizens, including federal officials whose responsibility it is to make decisions on Marshallese eligibility of benefits...Those of us whose families migrated and continue to migrate in increasing numbers, now more and more due to climate change and rising seas, are sincerely grateful to the United States for providing opportunities despite injustices done to our people. For my family and all Marshallese families living in diaspora in Arkansas and across the United States, who sacrificed our lands, bodies, and culture for the good of mankind, we ask to be heard, to be seen, and to be treated fairly.”

The Compacts do have provisions called “Compact Impact” funding, which provides economic assistance to US regions (Hawaii, Guam, and other Pacific territories) with high COFA populations. But some of the states with the largest populations, like Arkansas, California, Oregon, and Washington, are not included in those provisions.

In March, a bipartisan group of legislators re-introduced the Compact Impact Fairness Act. Senators Hirono (D-HI) and Boozman (R-AR), and Congressmembers Case (D-HI-1) and Womack (R-AR-3) teamed up to finish the job after Medicaid restoration in 2020. Their bill would ensure that COFA residents have access to all federal benefits they are entitled to. These members come from the Hawaii and Arkansas delegations — also states with high COFA populations. Supporting years of advocacy from COFA community members, Senator Hirono recently led the fight in Congress to restore Medicaid.

Now, Congress must be ready to take action. In the hearing yesterday, a State Department representative said they are working to finish the Compacts in a matter of weeks, not months. Very little information about what’s in the Compacts is public, so it’s hard to know if the final agreements will even get close to achieving justice for COFA citizens. But when the Compacts are sent to Congress, they need to be ready to pass them swiftly, or COFA citizens could face a lapse in economic assistance that could be extremely damaging. At the same time, Congress can’t forget COFA citizens living here in the US. COFA communities have been fighting since 1996 — almost 30 years — for these benefits. The Compact Impact Fairness Act should be passed as soon as possible.

Lilly Adams  
Senior Outreach Coordinator  
Global Security Program  
Union of Concerned Scientists

## On-Line Resources for ARA-LA/PART:

You can find archives of *TTT* and other resources that go back more than 35 years at [www.antiracist.org](http://www.antiracist.org). There are several Facebook pages, such as [facebook.com/tideturning](https://facebook.com/tideturning). You can follow [@ara\\_losangeles](https://twitter.com/ara_losangeles) on Twitter, [antiracistaction\\_la](https://instagram.com/antiracistaction_la) on IG, and the De-Colonize LA! blog at [ara-la.tumblr.com](http://ara-la.tumblr.com).

# COLLECTIVE WANTED TO CARRY ON 'TURNING THE TIDE'

Apologies to our readers and subscribers, especially those locked down behind prison walls. This issue of TTT is over a month late, partly because of calamitous and expensive digital problems, and partly because TTT editor and publisher has taken on the responsibility of serving as interim General Manager of Pacifica radio station KPFC 90.7 FM in Los Angeles (online at <https://kpfk.org>). This unpaid position has proven to be a more than full time occupation, as the station tries to revive its fortunes and rebuild its audience and impact.

On top of that, Michael and ARA published "The Blue Agave Revolution: Poetry of the Blind Rebel" by Indigenous political prisoner Oso Blanco (Byron Shane Chubbuck), [see elsewhere in this issue for more details and ordering information], and this has necessitated work on distribution and bookstore speaking engagements.

The technical difficulties that prevented publication of this issue back at the beginning of April however had to do with the hack of Western Digital which completely disabled and locked us out of the external web-hosted physical hard drive that housed all of TTT's files and archives. The cloud backup on Western Digital's servers was also inaccessible.

## Prisons Use Menstruation as a Form of Punishment

By Victoria Law and Rachel Kauder Nalebuff

There are approximately 170,000 people incarcerated in women's jails and prisons across the country. While some identify as trans and gender-nonbinary, they all have similar reproductive health concerns. 90% of people in women's jails and prisons are below the age of 55, and for them, those concerns include monthly periods. This means that every month, every time they menstruate, they face an additional layer of humiliation and dehumanization.

As a criminal-justice reporter and an oral historian, we collected first-hand accounts from prisoners as part of a global oral history project about menstruation. What we discovered, from correspondence with multiple writers incarcerated in different states, is a system that weaponizes menstruation as a form of punishment and oppression.

One such incarcerated writer is Kwaneta, a woman imprisoned in Texas. She told us that each month, her allotment of pads and tampons isn't enough.

"In prison, we're strip-searched often. Before we leave our cell. Before and after work. Each time we must remove our pad or tampon," she wrote. "We're assigned one pack of pads and five regular-size tampons monthly. If you're one of the heavy bleeders, women who have fibroids or are premenopausal, the state will not provide you any extra items. You must purchase them. We aren't paid to work in Texas. And nothing is free in prison."

She continued, "I've had guards open every single pad and tampon to check for contraband. Now the tampons are contaminated. There's no need to open a sealed package, but they do. I'm just so thankful I can afford the box of tampons to replace them."

If Kwaneta, or any woman, needs more supplies, she must purchase them from the commissary, the prison's sole store. But Texas prisoners are not paid at their prison-assigned jobs, and a box of tampons in Texas prisons costs \$15 (In contrast, the average cost of a box of tampons in drugstores outside of prison is from \$5 to \$8).

Many incarcerated women don't have family members who can send money. That leaves them little choice but

to stuff their panties with wads of toilet paper (which is also rationed behind bars) and hope that they don't bleed through onto their white jumpsuits. Often, the best solution, Kwaneta explained, especially for the most desperate and poor, is to eliminate their period through birth control, which is oddly more available in Kwaneta's prison than basic menstrual care items.

But a lack of supplies isn't the only assault on dignity. While collecting testimonies, we also heard the following:

A guard can supply a woman with her allotment of pads, but deny her the underwear she needs in order to wear the pad in the first place.

Someone on their period may be given supplies, but denied trash cans to dispose of soiled items.

During strip-searches, women are corralled into one area where a guard will order anyone menstruating to remove their tampons. One woman described routinely stepping onto other women's menstrual blood on the floor.

A menstrual blood stain on a prison uniform becomes a reason to be singled out, called "lazy" and shamed by guards.

There is no privacy behind bars. Even changing your pads or tampons is an occasion for guards to watch.

Lawmakers have made some attempts to introduce legislative protections around menstrual care for incarcerated people. In 2017, Senators Cory Booker and Elizabeth Warren introduced a bill called the Dignity For Incarcerated Women Act, requiring that federal prisons supply menstrual care products. Two weeks later, the federal prison system announced that it would provide period products free of charge, a change that was later codified as part of the First Step Act.

However, this federal legislation affects only those in federal jails and prisons, who make up less than 10% of the nation's 173,000 women behind bars. Those in state prisons are dependent on state laws. Over 35 states currently lack menstrual care protections, leaving women incarcerated in those state prisons at the mercy (or cruelty) of their jailers. The voices in this article come

This required a costly and time-consuming effort to extract the files and recover the content.

In any event, the entire experience and the editor's current responsibilities drove home the reality that a larger collective of people is needed to sustain and carry forward *Turning The Tide* as an anti-colonial, anti-capitalist, abolitionist journal distributed free to prisoners. Both the financial and the production and distribution responsibilities involved are more than the small part time crew currently involved can handle consistently going forward.

If you are part of a collective or community with an anti-imperialist, anti-fascist, anti-authoritarian orientation, sympathetic to the politics of decolonization and inter-communal solidarity that have distinguished *Turning The Tide* for more than three decades -- whether you are in southern California or not -- please get in touch and initiate a discussion of how to carry out such a shift in responsibilities. Email [antiracistaction\\_la@yahoo.com](mailto:antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com), or call 323-636-7388. The commitment would involve working on at least 4 issues a year and getting them into the hands of about 1700 prisoners.

from people incarcerated in states without legal menstrual care protections.

In some states, the indifference and the indignities around reproductive health extend from the monthly experience of periods all the way to birth. In Arizona, prisons have induced women into early labor against their will. Between 2005 and 2013, California sterilized over 850 people in women's prisons, frequently without their knowledge or informed consent.

No matter what you believe about serving time, we need to question why we permit this kind of control and abuse over anyone's most basic bodily functions and needs.

What's needed as part of the push for state-level regulations that guarantee the access to menstrual care products (and that the federal government has already acknowledged are necessary), is for us to first open our eyes. We must let the inhumane conditions of bleeding behind bars be known. Menstruation has been taboo for so long that the topic has remained in the shadows. But we are in a new era; we are ready to speak up. Perhaps on the deepest level, the inhumane conditions of bleeding behind bars provokes the question: Why are we locking up so many people in these torturous institutions in the first place—and how does subjecting people to abuse make anyone safer?

*Law is a freelance journalist who focuses on the intersections of incarceration, gender and resistance. She's the author of Prisons Make Us Safer": And 20 Other Myths about Mass Incarceration and the coauthor of Prison by Any Other Name: The Harmful Consequences of Popular Reforms.*

*Kauder Nalebuff is an oral historian and the editor of Our Red Book: Intimate Histories of Periods, Growing, and Changing, a collection of firsthand accounts about menstruation from voices of all ages, as well as the creator of the New York Times bestselling collection of first period stories, My Little Red Book. She teaches nonfiction writing at Yale University*

This op-ed appeared in Time magazine.

## HANDS OFF UHURU! HANDS OFF AFRICA!

International Day of Action

Saturday, May 27, 2023

Drop the Charges on the "Uhuru 3"

Defend the Right to Free Speech!

Be part of the worldwide movement denouncing the indictments of African People's Socialist Party Chairman Omali Yeshitela and Uhuru solidarity leaders Penny Hess and Jesse Nevel, falsely charged as "Russian agents!"

Stop the U.S. government's attempts to silence Chairman Omali Yeshitela and the Uhuru Movement that has struggled for Black Liberation and against U.S. colonial wars for more than 50 years!

Take action with demonstrations, protests, teach-ins, tabling, banner drops. Let them know we will not be silenced!

May 27th marks African Liberation Day and the founding of the African People's Socialist Party, as well as the three-year anniversary of the police murder of George Floyd.

<https://handsoffuhuru.org/>

**Los Angeles Hands Off Uhuru action**  
**Saturday, May 27th at 10:00AM**  
**US Federal Court Building**  
**350 W 1st, LA, CA 90012**



Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART) stands in solidarity with the African Peoples Socialist Party and the African Peoples Solidarity Committee in denouncing the federal attack on their party and organization, and condemns the preposterous charges that they are Russian agents.

The APSP is one of the oldest continuous Black liberation organizations in the US, dating back to the Junta of Militant Organizations in Florida in the same Black Power era of the 1960s as the Black Panther Party. Whatever ideological or theoretical differences other elements may have with them, it is clear that in this case an attack against one is an attack against all, and that all principled anti-racists and anti-fascists must unite to defend the APSP and oppose these trumped-up federal charges. We are co-sponsoring the Los Angeles Hands Off Uhuru action called by Union del Barrio.

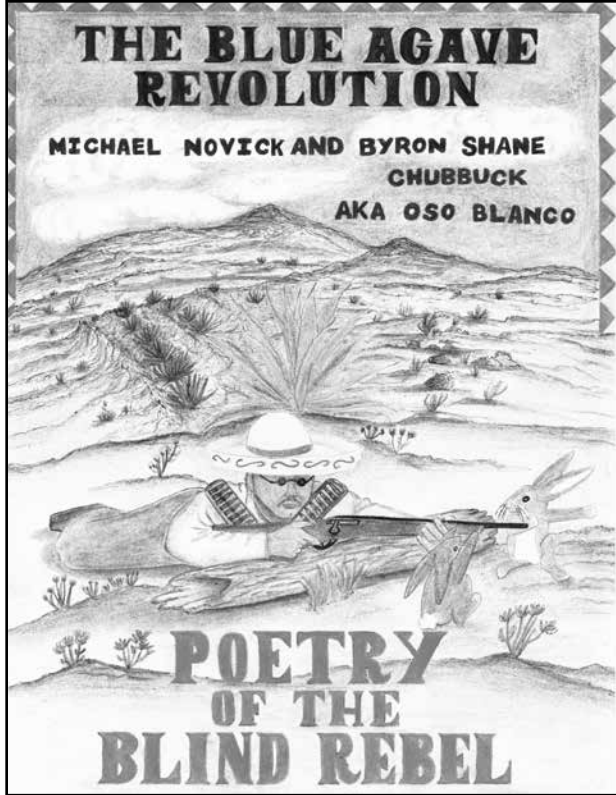
# THE BLUE AGAVE REVOLUTION: POETRY OF THE BLIND REBEL

by Byron Shane of Chubbuck, AKA Oso Blanco, and Michael Novick

*The Blue Agave Revolution: Poetry of the Blind Rebel* comprises magical realist and speculative fiction from the co-authors, an imprisoned Indigenous freedom fighter and a life-long anti-imperialist and de-colonizer of European descent. Oso Blanco has a story and poetry cycle, and additional poems and stories, including with collaborators, written painstakingly behind prison walls. Many of the poems and the story cycle are set in Mexico during the revolution of the early 20th Century. Novick adds a selection of his poems written over the course of many decades, some recent political analysis, and two speculative fiction works set in the near future, reflecting situations analogous to anti-fascist struggle. Below are some excerpts from the description, bios and dedications in the book itself.

*The Blue Agave Revolution: Poetry of the Blind Rebel* is a collection of political poetry, short stories, other writings, and profiles of political prisoners, by two activists, Michael Novick and Byron Shane of Chubbuck, AKA Oso Blanco. These two writers express their desires for freedom, Native rights, anti-racist justice, as well as equality for All Life and Peoples. These writers are life-long artists, creative and political writers, poets and journalists. Each at different levels.

Byron Shane Chubbuck is a Cherokee Nation citizen who is also Choctaw and Celtic, a Wolf Clan Cherokee and a sovereign. He comes from the Chickamauga band, a direct descendant of Nancy Ward. Poetry Society. He has traveled all over Mexico and has a deep love



for its amazing peoples. He has vast experiences in Pulque making, chemistry, Art, and scraping a living from the ground up. He says to the Houseless – whom

he feeds and aids – “I have been you. You are me! I am commanded by my Creator to love all humanity and all Living beings.” He is now in Federal prison for the Robin-in-the-Hood bank robbery case.

Michael Novick grew up in an immigrant, working-class, Orthodox Jewish family in Brooklyn, New York, has traveled in Mexico, mostly in solidarity with the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional Mexicano, and taught school in L.A. for many years. He went to Cuba with the 50th Venceremos Brigade in 2019. He lives in Los Angeles with his spouse, Avon Leekley, who has also contributed to the production, editing and proof-reading of the volume. He contributed a chapter to *No Pasarán! Anti-Fascist Dispatches from a World in Crisis*, edited by Shane Burley from AK Press. He was recently named interim General Manager of Pacifica’s KPDK, seeking to increase its community engagement and orientation, and openness to expressions of solidarity and liberation in political, cultural and economic spheres.

Art is by Byron S. Chubbuck (Oso Blanco) and E. Yazzi.

Publisher/Imprint: BookBaby.com; a PART book Oversize paperback; print on demand and e-book forthcoming. Size: 8.5×11 Pages: 300

Price: \$23.99 plus tax, shipping and handling = \$30, payable to Anti-Racist Action. Profits of proceeds after expenses will go to Oso Blanco’s Children’s Art Project (benefiting youth in Chiapas, Mexico).

## NO PASARÁN! ANTI-FASCIST DISPATCHES FROM A WORLD IN CRISIS

Shane Burley (Editor); Tal Lavin (Foreword); David Renton (Afterword)

Publisher: AK Press

Format: paperback

Pages: 564

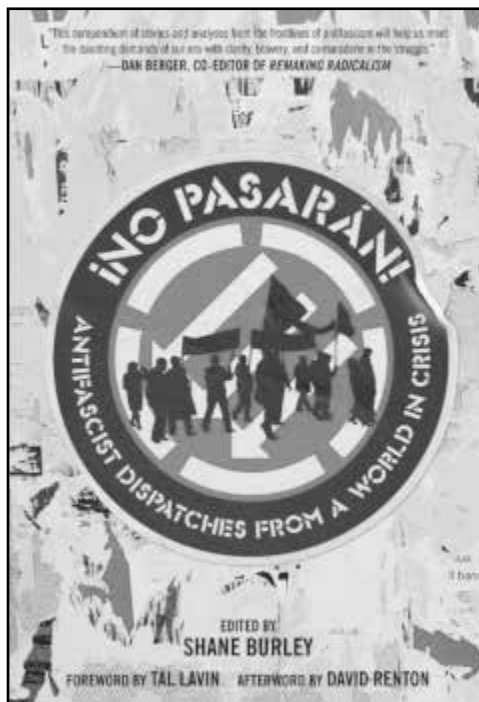
Released: October 25, 2022

ISBN-13: 9781849354820

*¡No Pasarán! Anti-Fascist Dispatches from a World in Crisis* is an extensive, international compendium of antifascist writing that takes up the fight against white supremacy and the far-right from multiple angles.

From the history of antifascism in Europe, the US, and the Global South, to today’s movement to identify, de-platform, and confront the right, and the ways an insurgent fascism is growing within capitalist democracies, a myriad of voices come together to shape the new face of antifascism in a moment of social and political flux.

In addition to a variety of theoretical and historical analyses, the volume includes practical and specific reports on how fighting sports built confidence in European anti-fascist networks, on the formation of the Campus Antifascist Network, on making journalism antifa again, and on confronting the far right in heathenry and heavy metal scenes, as well as antifascism



through a transgender lens. It includes significant interviews with Mic Crenshaw on the formation of Anti-Racist Action and with Kelly Hayes about her work as an abolitionist antifascist dealing with the intersection of policing and state surveillance with fascism-from-below. *TTT* editor Michael Novick has a long chapter on lessons from the 1960s, ‘70s, ‘80s, ‘90s, 2000s, ‘10s and 2020s. concluding with an analysis of the roots of US fascism in settler colonial racial capitalism.

### Praise for ¡No Pasarán!

“Academics and pundits have made careers out of debating the definition of fascism. We are deluged with books, each bearing its own definitions, prognoses, caveats, and warnings, only to be bumped off the bestseller list by the next self-proclaimed fascism expert. *¡No Pasarán!* is not that book. These writer-activists understand fascism to be a many-headed hydra that defies typologies and strongman tropes and can only be apprehended in the dialectic of resistance. Antifascism is not an exercise in abstract thinking but an active, collective struggle for a new world. This book will get dog-eared and dirty, but not by gathering dust.”

—Robin D. G. Kelley, author of *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination*

## WE GO WHERE THEY GO: THE STORY OF ANTI-RACIST ACTION

Authors: Shannon Clay, Lady, Kristin Schwartz, and Michael Staudenmaier; Foreword by Gord Hill

Series: PM Press/Working Class History

Published: 11/29/22

Format: Paperback/Hardcover

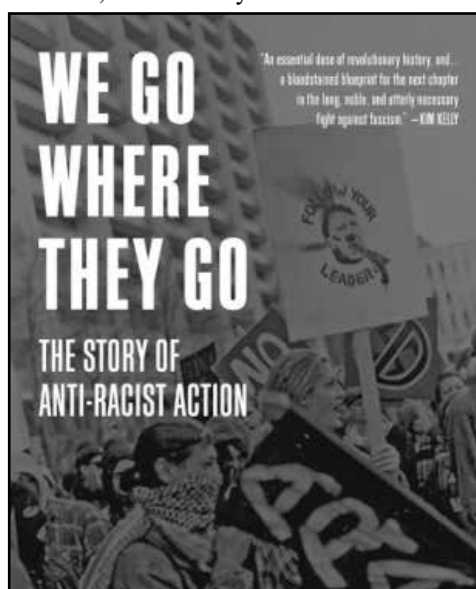
Size: 6x9

Pages: 320

What does it mean to risk all for your beliefs? How do you fight an enemy in your midst? *We Go Where They Go* recounts the thrilling story of a massive yet somewhat forgotten youth movement that set the stage for today’s anti-fascist organizing in North America.

When skinheads and punks in the late 1980s found their communities invaded by white supremacists and neo-nazis, they fought back. Influenced by anarchism, feminism, Black liberation, and Indigenous sovereignty, they created Anti-Racist Action.

At ARA’s height in the 1990s, thousands of dedicated activists in hundreds of chapters joined the fights—political



and sometimes physical—against nazis, the Ku Klux Klan, anti-abortion fundamentalists, and racist police. Long before media pundits, cynical politicians, and your uncle discovered “antifa,” Anti-Racist Action was bringing it to the streets.

Based on extensive interviews with dozens of ARA participants, including *TTT* editor Michael Novick, a co-founder of the ARA network and its successor, the TORCH Antifa Network, *We Go Where They Go* tells ARA’s story from within, giving voice to those who risked their safety in their own defense and in solidarity with others.

In reproducing the posters, zines, propaganda, and photos of the movement itself, this essential work of radical history illustrates how cultural scenes can become powerful forces for change. Here at last is the story of an organic yet highly organized movement, exploring both its triumphs and failures, and offering valuable lessons for today’s generation of activists and rabble-rousers. *We Go Where They Go* is a jam-packed, page-turning history of grassroots anti-racism.

## 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. 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. Donate online at [https://ko-fi.com/anti\\_racist\\_action\\_la](https://ko-fi.com/anti_racist_action_la) Help it go viral! *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 2023. Postage is our biggest expense. Nobody gets paid at *TTT*. But the Postal Service is not so generous. 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](https://ko-fi.com/anti_racist_action_la) and donate, or use paypal to [antiracistaction\\_la@yahoo.com](mailto: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.**

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## For an Anti-Racist, Anti-Fascist Pacifica

Anybody reading this paper is probably aware of the threat of fascism from above and below, and of the role of the state in seeking to manufacture both consent for imperialism, and to manufacture a controlled and ineffective “dissent” essentially from the right and on the basis of white supremacy and narrow nationalism. In particular, in the tradition of CIA control of journalists and academics during the Cold War, all corporate, “public,” and even social media are dominated by pro-imperialist views. Pacifica radio has always been a target for airing anti-corporate, anti-war, and anti-racist analyses and cultural expressions.

It is critical to fight for, defend and extend a commitment to anti-racism and anti-imperialism at Pacifica radio, and in particular at KPFFK. There is a national Pacifica Fightback town hall about defending democracy within Pacifica, in the interests of rebuilding Pacifica’s impact as a platform and megaphone for the radical voices of Black, Indigenous, Raza, AAPI communities and all poor and working people. This will take place via zoom on Saturday, June 17 at 3 PM pacific. Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8122111111>

Most important is to undertake a membership drive this month to qualify for membership in KPFFK and to work on putting together a slate of candidates who can powerfully represent the power of struggling people to shape the future, not only of Pacifica, but of all society, in the interests of internationalism and the solidarity of the oppressed and exploited people struggling for liberation.

You can donate to KPFFK online here: <https://kpfk.wedid.it/> or by mailing a check or money order payable to KPFFK to KPFFK – Pacifica Foundation, PO Box 748419, Los Angeles CA 90074-8419. If you are interested in running or in helping carry out the campaign, email [grassrootscommunityradio@gmail.com](mailto:grassrootscommunityradio@gmail.com) ASAP.

## Writing Is My Main Freedom. One Day My Work Disappeared.

A software change in my prison-issued electronic tablet ate up my drafts and eliminated basic writing tools. That may sound minor, but try sending a poem to your kid without line breaks.

By Demetrius Buckley

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2021/12/16/writing-is-my-main-freedom-one-day-my-poems-essays-short-stories-and-letters-disappeared>

Subscribe to our newsletters for more criminal justice news.  
Read this story online.

Back in August, six of my essays, four of my short stories and a bunch of half-written poems that were perhaps worthy of francine j. harris disappeared from the JPay electronic tablet I use to write and stay in touch with my loved ones.

For the most part, the JPay system is a relief. Along with sending and receiving messages, the tablets allow us to get music, games and books from a catalogue on the kiosks that we use to download materials.

There are just two kiosks for over 80 people in my unit. When it’s your turn, you pick up where your conversations and jokes left off. You pore over the hard-to-decipher letters your young children write to you. When JPay is working properly, it makes connection with the outside world more possible. But there are downsides, like losing features.

I lost my works-in-progress because the prison and JPay reduced the tools available to men in the so-called security threat group (STG). Those changes also impacted prisoners like me, who aren’t in the STG.

Suddenly, my box for drafts was gone, and the sentences I typed appeared in one long line across the screen. Without line breaks, I couldn’t create paragraphs in my essays or stanzas in the poems I wrote to my 11-year-old daughter. Essentially, my tablet ceased to be a vehicle for my creative writing. It may sound minor, but try reading and writing messages on your tablet, laptop or phone without line breaks and drafts. Suddenly, your writing makes no sense.

I was devastated, because writing is one of very few freedoms I have at Baraga Correctional Facility in Michigan. Writing is how I make sense of the muddiness within myself and this environment, and I love the ritual of honing my work on the tablet and sharing it with other writers. It’s like a second chance at life.

The change in mailbox features came on top of the usual cost of the electronic “stamps” we have to buy to communicate with our loved ones. Each page requires a stamp, which gets expensive, especially during COVID-19, when families are struggling and people are dying. Even worse, the power to accept or reject the non-legal material that we read and write falls on whoever the Michigan Department of Corrections appoints. Often it’s just a corrections officer filling in for another in the mailroom. JPay is considered a privilege rather than a right. And privileges can be taken away.

According to “Protecting Your Health and Safety: A Litigation Guide For Inmates,” a book published by the Southern Poverty Law Center, the outgoing messages the prison rejects need to be “reasonably related to legitimate penological interests.” That means we can’t send or receive messages that contain escape plans, threats of blackmail or other criminal activity. According to the guide, “officials may not censor incoming or outgoing mail simply because it criticizes the courts, jail or prison policies, or the officials themselves.”

And yet, I’ve had my messages about the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor rejected. The same goes for my journalistic work about prisoners like me on security Level 4, who had been waiting to transfer out of Level 5 housing for two years. To add insult to injury, we don’t get our stamps back when a message is deemed unsafe or inappropriate.

Ultimately, it fell on our loved ones and writing communities to get the features restored for non-STG prisoners. They repeatedly called the facility and JPay representatives to complain. About three weeks into the service changes, JPay sent a message to everyone at Baraga claiming that they had technical problems that they were trying to solve. A week after that letter, prisoners who weren’t in the security threat group had their features restored.

While I’m glad that JPay is back to normal, I’m still upset at the arbitrary nature of the changes. I’ll never know what my lost essays, poems and letters — my main creative outlet and my second chance at life — could have become.

A spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Corrections stated that “transfers from Level 5 to Level 4 have been slowed due to COVID protocol.”

A spokesperson for JPay said that a software release “deployed mid-August inadvertently... reverted some facilities to default settings impacting drafting and ease of editing... We acknowledge this technology error and commit to better serving our customers.” On the subject of censored messages, they stated, “If customers feel their content was wrongfully denied, we encourage them to contact customer support, refute the decision and request a stamp refund.”

*Demetrius A. Buckley is a poet and fiction writer. His work has been published in The Michigan Quarterly Review, RHINO, The Periphery and Storyteller. He’s currently working on a novel, “HalfBreed.” He is serving a 20-year sentence for second degree murder at Baraga Correctional Facility in Michigan.*

## URGENT APPEAL

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

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**Postage alone for this issue comes to \$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)**

# Stop Cop City! Defend the Forest! Drop the Charges!

Daily Beast report by Kelly Weill,  
<https://www.thedailybeast.com/atlantas-cop-city-blasted-at-public-meeting-over-dollar335-million-in-funding?ref=wrap>

Excerpts:

A controversial police training facility needs more than \$30 million from Atlanta taxpayers. But during more than seven hours of public comment at a packed city council meeting on Monday, hundreds of locals expressed unanimous opposition to the project. The Atlanta Public Safety Training Center—called “Cop City” by challengers—is a proposed \$90 million, 85-acre police training ground slated for construction in Atlanta’s South River Forest.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear public comments on a bill that would give the police training project \$33.5 million in city funds, approximately \$16 million of which must be signed over to the construction project by the end of June. (The city’s payout has edged up in recent months, from earlier estimates of \$30 million, then \$32 million.)

The project has seen opposition from environmental, racial justice, and indigenous rights activists, who argue that the project will cut down a forest on historically Native American land and fuel aggressive policing. After a series of protester arrests, and the killing of one activist by police, the project is now close to breaking ground. And opposition is louder than ever.

“I’ve been to City Hall for some years now,” Micah Herskind, an Atlanta-based community organizer who attended the Monday meeting, told The Daily Beast. “But until the Monday city council hearing, ‘I’ve never seen the line at the door, even, of where the public comment sign up is. It was out the door, around the whole second floor, winding down the stairs, and then eventually went out through the building, through the security line. And they showed up literally 100 percent against Cop City. We did a complete tally of public comments. 100 percent of comments were against Cop City.”

Not one of the nearly 300 speakers supported the spending. “People were not only talking about not wanting Cop City. They were also saying, ‘hey, you have \$30 million? Put that in our schools, put that in affordable housing, put that in our streets, put that in childcare, in food for people, for people who are homeless,’” Herskind said.

Other speakers pointed to the city’s history of aggressive policing. Atlanta father Jimmy Hill, whose



Atlanta forest defenders march to stop Cop City and demand justice for Tortuguita Teran, killed by cops. Faces are intentionally blurred as authorities have been charging forest defenders as “domestic terrorists.”

son was shot and killed by police in 2019, used the public comment period to return a proclamation the city had awarded his family after the killing. The proclamation condemned gun violence, which Hill said was a mischaracterization of his son’s death. “Call it what it is: police brutality is police brutality. Stop trying to sugarcoat it. It’s police brutality, a police killing,” Hill said.

Hill also used the comment period to condemn the police killing of Manuel Esteban “Tortuguita” Paez Terán, an activist who was camping in the South River Forest in opposition to the Cop City construction. On Jan. 18, police opened fire on Terán’s tent, shooting the activist at least 57 times. Police claimed Terán had fired a gun—a claim strongly disputed by Terán’s family and complicated by autopsy reports. An independent autopsy by Terán’s family suggested that their hands were up at the time of the shooting. An autopsy by DeKalb County could not make a definite determination about Terán’s posture, but found no evidence of gunshot residue on their hands. A report by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation found traces of gunshot primer residue on Terán’s hands, but noted that the residue can also land on

gunshot victims. No body camera footage of the killing is available.

Hill is not the only person to return awards to Atlanta in protest of the police training site. Terán’s death, and the mass arrests of people at an anti-Cop City music festival, have drawn national scrutiny to the project as it nears its planned August groundbreaking. Civil rights leader Angela Davis, who received a proclamation from Atlanta in March, returned the award days later. “I regret that I did not consider the implications of my acceptance of this award at the time, given the fact that the City Council voted in favor of the construction of a massive militarized police training facility in the South River Forest,” Davis said in an April statement.

Atlanta’s City Council is slated to vote on the \$33.5 million funding on June 5. A failed funding vote is not necessarily a dealbreaker (the police foundation behind the project is trying to raise \$60 million of its own), but it might be activists’ best legal avenue for blocking the project.

More information about the struggle to Stop Cop City and defend the forest here:

<https://stopcop.city/what-is-cop-city/>  
<https://www.mainlinezine.com/tag/stop-cop-city/>

## Protect Thacker Pass “Lithium Isn’t the Answer”

For two years, Native American tribes have been fighting to protect a sacred site in Nevada threatened by a massive open-pit mining project approved in the last days of the Trump Administration.

Thacker Pass, known as “Peehee Mu’huh” in Paiute, has been a gathering place, village site, hunting ground, and spiritually important location for thousands of years. On September 12, 1865, the U.S. Army massacred dozens of Paiute men, women, and children who were camped there.

It’s also a biodiversity hot spot and watershed for local communities.

The permit for the Thacker Pass lithium mine project was “fast tracked” under the Trump administration. Public involvement in the process was severely restricted due to COVID. The Federal government claims permitting was done correctly — despite all the tribes which were supposedly consulted saying “that never happened.”

Environmentalists, tribes, and local ranchers and farmers have been fighting to #ProtectThackerPass #ProtectPeeheeMuhuh for 28 months, but legal approaches have failed. Now people are putting their bodies between the land and the bulldozers. Direct action began on April 25th with a day-long construction stoppage.

Then, one week ago, a group of Paiute spiritual leaders and elders setup a ceremonial tipi directly in the path of ongoing water pipeline construction at Thacker Pass and have been blocking mine workers from accessing the site. No arrests have been made despite several police warnings, but the situation is tense.



This new protest camp is named after Ox Sam, a survivor of the 1865 massacre and direct ancestor of the spiritual leaders who are now protecting the site where their ancestors were killed. The camp is also named “Newe Momokonee Nokutun” — indigenous women’s camp.

Traditional Paiute people have a spiritual relationship to water, and the choice to block the water pipeline was very deliberate.

There is a real possibility of imminent police or legal action against camp. Just as in 1865, armed men are coming to Peehee Mu’huh. The elders are calling for supporters to urgently join them on-site in peaceful prayer, to spread the word, from afar, and build massive political pressure on the Biden Administration and Department of the Interior to halt mine construction.

More information and contacts can be found at  
<https://oxsam.org>  
Background information is available at  
<https://ProtectThackerPass.org>

# PIGS AIN'T YOUR FRIENDS Hollywood Blacklist and Red Scare at 75

(2023)  
 By Kevin "Rashid" Johnson  
 Officer friendly is a slimy  
 motherfucker  
 trying to buy kids' trust with a two cent  
 sucker  
 But we've had enough  
 of cops getting rough  
 And killing our kids  
 lying about what they did  
 Driving us to protest  
 but officials just  
 Present more crime bills  
 and continue to fill  
 The hood with more cops  
 for pretext stops  
 Throwing us to the ground  
 kneeling down  
 On our necks  
 so maybe the next  
 To lose their life  
 will be someone right  
 In your own home  
 someone you've known  
 And loved for years  
 your eyes blinded by tears  
 And grief  
 I daresay each  
 Of us know the feeling  
 of loved ones killed and  
 Beaten black and blue  
 and packed into  
 Prison cells  
 a living hell  
 Created by those  
 who are supposed  
 To serve and protect  
 but they show no respect  
 To "We the People"  
 they personify evil  
 They ain't your friends  
 they were sent in  
 To contain the poor protect the rich  
 ain't that a bitch!  
 If only we could  
 because we should  
 Expel them  
 with forces that excel them  
 And bring security and peace  
 we DON'T NEED THE POLICE  
 How long did we have unity

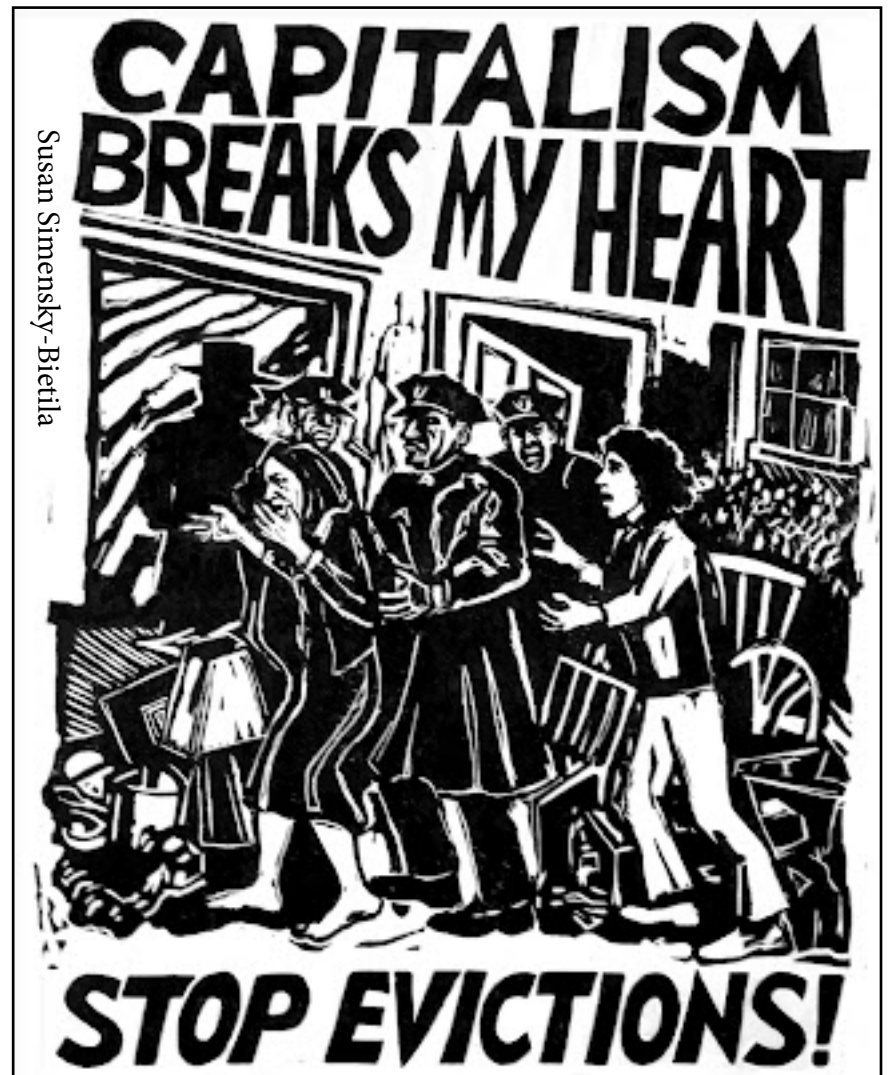
within our communities  
 Before they came in  
 and began blaming  
 Us for the disruptions  
 that began erupting  
 Among our sons and daughters  
 brought by their law and disorder  
 K-9s snapping at our heels  
 were being killed  
 By them at rates  
 that make  
 More than clear  
 that causing fear  
 Is their intention  
 just like lynching  
 Which is  
 exactly what it is  
 Only instead of wearing white  
 and attacking at night  
 To hide their faces  
 today these racists  
 Wear blue  
 and hide what they do  
 Behind outright lies  
 meant to disguise  
 Their purpose  
 to contain and hurt us  
 An occupying army  
 here to harm me  
 Talking about if you see something  
 say something  
 Got you snitching  
 and switching  
 Roles  
 turning loved ones to moles  
 Selling our souls  
 so they can control  
 And come in  
 and keep running  
 Roughshod  
 over us god-  
 Damn I'm sick of pig shit  
 and getting hit with  
 Their games of divide and rule  
 we ain't all fools  
 But alotta you are  
 and we could really go far  
 If you could recognize  
 their lies  
 And see in the end  
 the pigs ain't your friends!

## Hollywood Blacklist and Red Scare at 75

<https://www.academymuseum.org/en/programs/series/the-hollywood-ten-at-75>  
 Seventy-five years ago, Hollywood entered one of its bleakest periods. In 1947, 10 Hollywood writers and directors famously refused to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) and were held in contempt of Congress. In response, Hollywood's top studio heads turned their backs on these filmmakers. The Hollywood Ten—Alvah Bessie, Herbert Biberman, Lester Cole, Edward Dmytryk, Ring Lardner, Jr., John Howard Lawson, Albert Maltz, Samuel Ornitz, Adrian Scott, and Dalton Trumbo—as these artists came to be known, were blacklisted from the film industry and in April 1948 were sentenced by the government to serve a year in federal prison.

The persecution and blacklisting of these filmmakers were years in the making as the US government had already made its interest in Hollywood, and the left-wing views held by many within the industry, known. It became common practice to fire and/or deny employment to anyone who held Communist political views or were, in any way, deemed Communist sympathizers by their peers and the government.

This series highlights key films made by and about members of the Hollywood Ten and their blacklisted colleagues, underscoring the hand these filmmakers had in how Hollywood depicted 20th-century history from the Depression through World War II and the Holocaust.



### \*\*\*IMPORTANT UPDATE CONCERNING COMRADE RASHID\*\*\*

Prostate cancer can be cured if discovered and treated before it spreads (metastasizes) beyond the prostate. But once it spreads it becomes incurable and fatal.

Rashid's prostate cancer was discovered over a year ago and diagnosed by biopsy months ago, before it had spread or any symptoms had developed. However, he has now developed symptoms that indicate it likely has metastasized, which would not have happened if he had begun receiving treatment earlier. Denied care and delayed hospital appointments continue, which can only be intended to cause spreading and worsening symptoms.

I just received word from Rashid through another prisoner where he is, that he was transported on October 25, 2022 to the Medical College of Virginia (MCV) hospital, which is a state hospital where Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC) officials also work. MCV appears to have a nefarious relationship with the VDOC in denying prisoners needed treatment. Upon arrival to the hospital he was told the appointment had been rescheduled, which has now become a pattern.

The appointment was for a full body PET scan to determine if and to what degree his cancer has metastasized. When he met with a radiologist on October 4, 2022, after 3 prior re-schedulings, there was concern that his cancer may have spread because of symptoms he's begun developing. This is his fourth rescheduled hospital appointment which has delayed appointments for weeks to months, preventing him from receiving care.

Because of delayed testing and denied care Rashid has developed symptoms that continue to worsen, which include internal bleeding and pain. The passage of time without care is worsening his condition and making the likelihood of death from the spread of his cancer more certain. Here is the new donation link for Rashid's legal fund.

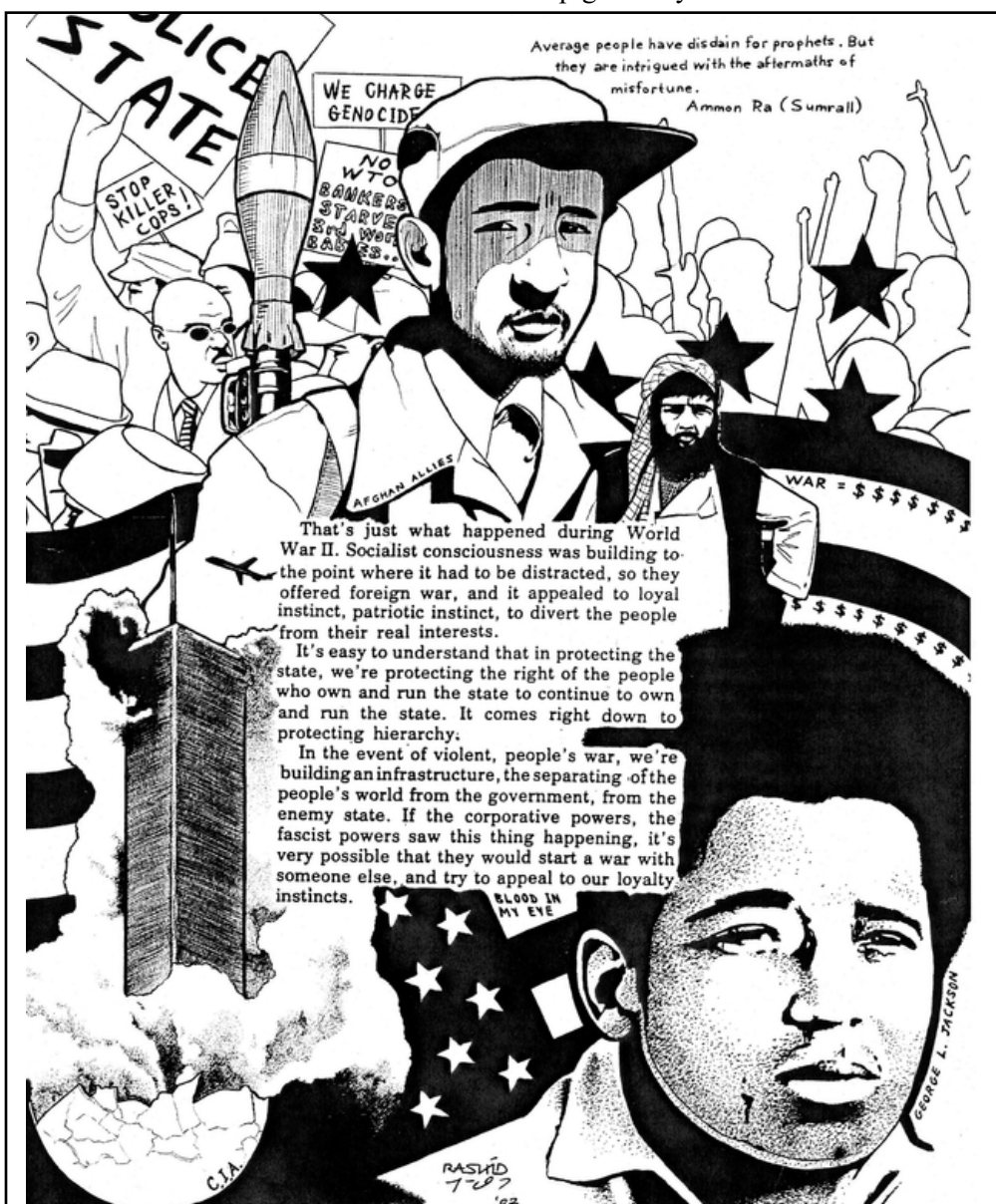
[https://fundrazr.com/025tu2?ref=ab\\_6BrbV1](https://fundrazr.com/025tu2?ref=ab_6BrbV1)

Also on October 21, 2022 Rashid was approved by a classification panel at Sussex 1 to be released from solitary confinement. The warden Kevin McCoy, who Rashid has written several exposes about for abuses committed while he was a guard at Virginia's notoriously racist and abusive supermax Red Onion State Prison, refuses to release him.

WRITE RASHID

Rashid is currently being held at:  
 Kevin Johnson 1007485 Sussex 1  
 24414 Musselwhite Dr.  
 Waverly, VA 23891

More information here: [https://rashidmod.com/?page\\_id=238](https://rashidmod.com/?page_id=238)



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A JOURNAL OF INTER-COMMUNAL SOLIDARITY

# TURNING THE TIDE

Volume 35 ★ Number 2 ★ ISSN 1082-6491 ★ April - June 2023

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ★ May 1 - International Workers' Day - May Day
- ★ May 27 - African Liberation Day - Day of Action for Uhuru Three! 10:00AM US Federal Court Building, 350 W 1st, LA, CA 90012 (see p. 3 for details)
- ★ June member drive KPFK 90.7. <https://kpfk.org/donate> for anti-racist radio
- ★ Jun 17 - Pacifica Fightback Town Hall 3pm Pacific (see p. 5 for registration)
- ★ June 19 - Juneteenth commemoration of Emancipation in Texas

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Susan Simensky-Bietila

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- ★ Mumia Abu-Jamal on De-Regulation

- ★ Hands Off Uhuru 3! Hands Off Africa! Rally May 27, 10a. 350 W. 1st St. DTLA

- ★ Menstruation as Punishment in Prison

- ★ Stop Cop City! Defend the Atlanta Forest

- ★ Prisoner writings

- ★ Anti-racist Pacifica and much more!

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